

# Commonwealth of Virginia

## COUNTY OF FREDERICK

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## PRESS RELEASE

**DATE: August 20, 2014**

Following a comprehensive investigation conducted by the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Frederick County, Virginia has determined that there is no evidence upon which to base any criminal charge(s) against Mr. Easton McDonald, related to the accidental shooting of his daughter in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 12, 2014.

The investigation revealed that at the time of the shooting, Mr. McDonald believed that his daughter had been in her room asleep for several hours. He was unaware that she had left the house approximately two hours before to meet a friend nearby. This was corroborated by Mr. McDonald's daughter, who is still hospitalized, recovering from her injuries.

Believing that all family members were present and accounted for within the home, Mr. McDonald mistakenly believed that the person or persons attempting to enter his home through the garage represented a dangerous intrusion. His subsequent use of a lawfully possessed firearm was predicated on this mistake of fact, coupled with his desire to protect his home and family.

Due to the apparent lack of any criminal intent on the part of Mr. McDonald, it is the position of the Frederick County Commonwealth's Attorney that no criminal charge or charges can be sustained on the available evidence. Should additional facts come to light in the future, this decision will be revisited.