

MICHAEL J. ROURKE
District Attorney



ROBERT W. MILLER
Assistant District Attorney

915 10TH Street
P.O. Box 1167
Greeley, CO 80632
Phone: (970) 356-4010
Fax: (970) 352-8023
www.weldda.com

Office of the District Attorney Nineteenth Judicial District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 9.27.2016
Contact: Tyler Hill • thill@weldgov.com • 970.400.4702

Weld DA: Clown Threats Are No Laughing Matter



GREELEY, Colo. (Weld County D.A.) – So you’ve heard the latest trend sweeping the country: Clowns terrorizing neighborhoods, schools, parks, you name it. We can see it now: “Clown Stuck in Sewer Grate While Terrorizing Georgie Street” – yes, Pennywise still haunts our dreams.

Let’s face it, Hollywood has ruined the happy-go-lucky Clown for many: Poltergeist, Saw, Twisty...even the 1980’s horror comedy Killer Klowns from Outer Space. We see now why McDonalds has slowly distanced itself from Ronald McDonald.

But now it seems these scary clowns are horrifying more than just our dreams. They’re disrupting our normal lives. Sinister clowns are plaguing the country. In Greenville, S.C., clowns were attempting to lure children into the woods.

In Alabama, seven clowns are now facing felony charges for making terroristic clown threats. In North Carolina, one clown wielded a machete while walking through the woods near an apartment complex. It’s no joke.

All these instances lead us to Greeley, where school officials and law enforcement worked overnight to put clown threats to rest.

It started on Facebook. Greeley Police say the post threatened a shooting on Halloween night. It quickly turned into a viral event, claiming clowns would carry out shootings at two Greeley schools. The case is still under investigation, but police think they’ve pinned it down to a 15-year-old student.



MICHAEL J. ROURKE
District Attorney

ROBERT W. MILLER
Assistant District Attorney

Office of the District Attorney
Nineteenth Judicial District

915 10TH Street
P.O. Box 1167
Greeley, CO 80632
Phone: (970) 356-4010
Fax: (970) 352-8023
www.weldda.com

“Parents, please talk to your teenagers about this problem,” urged Weld County District Attorney Michael Rourke. “They must realize this isn’t a harmless joke. This ‘joke’ heightened fears in students, parents and school officials. We won’t tolerate people terrorizing our community, and we will charge them where we see fit.”

And it’s not just teenagers. Adults are not immune. If you’re caught making this type of threat, you could be charged with Interference with Staff, Faculty or Students of Educational Institutions – a crime that carries up to 18 months in jail. Then we’ll see who is laughing.

###