



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service  
Sheriff Pat Garrett

## PRESS RELEASE

### Sheriff Warns of iPhone Gun Case and Replica Gun Danger

July 9, 2015--The Washington County Sheriff's Office joins law enforcement agencies across the country in speaking up against an iPhone case that looks very much like a real gun. (See inset photos from a news conference hosted by New York Senator Chuck Schumer calling for a ban on iPhone cases shaped like a handgun.)

Deputies often make split-second decisions about whether a gun is real. In a fast-developing situation, if someone pulled this device out to videotape or to call someone, it could have tragic results.

Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett said, "We work hard every day to ensure our interactions with the public are as safe and peaceful as possible. This dangerously realistic gun phone case is marketed as cool and trendy when, in fact, the consequences of quickly pulling it out of a pocket or bag could have catastrophic consequences."

While actual statistics are difficult to calculate, reports of deaths, injuries and close calls involving replica guns are becoming more common across the nation. Many of these incidents involve individuals using a replica gun to commit a crime.

The Sheriff's Office is also concerned about the public mistaking this phone case for a real gun, prompting calls to 911. It is not uncommon for deputies to respond to a "person with a gun" report, later to find out it was a replica gun.

Recently, several online news stories reported eBay began removing listings for the iPhone gun case from its marketplace due to it violating their 'replica gun policy' and posing a safety threat to consumers.



Since 1989, federal law requires replica guns be manufactured or imported with a permanent bright orange plug at the end of a non-shooting barrel or a body that's brightly colored. Airsoft guns are required to have an orange collar on the muzzle or transparent neon-colored bodies. Deputies often find these guns altered to remove the orange markings. The Sheriff's Office urges parents to not allow their children to use these realistic looking guns.

Media interested in seeing a comparison between actual firearms and replica guns (in photo to right) currently in the possession of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, should contact Sergeant Bob Ray at 503-209-5613.



Confiscated Replica Guns