

Drew Eddy:

This is about as intense of a situation as you can be in. This gentleman contacted us through the emergency line after being released from custody for a shooting he was just involved in where he ultimately shot and killed his grandfather. Potential charges would've been murder and most likely second-degree murder. The background of this case was that our client was living with the grandfather while he was going through a pretty tough time. And ultimately they got into an argument. As our client was leaving for work the grandfather went and grabbed a firearm that he had in his room, aimed it at our client shot, missed. Our client was a lawful concealed carry permit holder. Pulled out his gun in defense and shot and killed his grandfather.

Drew Eddy:

So an extremely tragic situation, but that doesn't mean that law enforcement goes away all of a sudden. And in fact, they got pretty intensely involved right from the get-go. And the reason I highlight this case is because the work we did for this client was all pre-charging decision. And we learned through doing interviews that the grandfather had a history of severe alcohol abuse and of acting out violently when he was under the influence, which he was here in this particular incident.

Drew Eddy:

And all of these family members ultimately concluded, yes, it was a tragic situation. They're not happy that one of their family members is now deceased or was killed, but ultimately knowing what they did about him and how he reacted in these situations, they did not fault our client and knew that he was acting to preserve his own life. And that type of investigation goes beyond pretty much anything that you'll see on the law enforcement side. Now I'm sure the Adams County Sheriff's office, in this case preserved all the evidence they could on scene and talked to the very few witnesses that were involved that knew anything about what had occurred, but I suspect that they didn't go any further than that to the family's involvement, to the family's knowledge of the grandfather. I solely wanted our investigator to conduct the interview because when you're calling somebody within a family who just had a family member die, especially as a result of a homicide, you don't really know what you're walking into and you're probably not going to be walking into the most friendliest situations.

Drew Eddy:

So it's a judgment call based off of who the target interviewee is and who your investigator is unfortunately. We have an outstanding investigator that can have good conversations with people in very dark times in their lives. When we're talking about the gravity of something like a homicide investigation, having the support of a team is instrumental. And to be able to trust an investigator to jump into something like this, knowing that they have the experience to do so and not having to think twice about it is invaluable. And we were able to put that together in a very comprehensible, neat, and to the point packet that we provided to the homicide detective, as well as the intake chief at the Adams County DA's office. And I have to believe that that was pretty instrumental in their decision to not file those charges.