



GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Michael D. Shea, Sheriff • Randy Fewless, Undersheriff

Administration

851 Woodmere Avenue, Traverse City, MI 49686-3349 • (231) 995-5000 • FAX (231) 995-5010

Corrections

320 Washington Street, Traverse City, MI 49684-2583 • (231) 922-4530 • FAX (231) 922-4415

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GTSO Addresses Intoxilyzer 9000 Certification Concerns

On August 20, 2026, the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office (GTSO) was contacted by the Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney's Office regarding questions about Intoxilyzer 9000 operator certifications and certification date entries. The Intoxilyzer 9000 is used to determine the level of intoxication in Operating under the Influence and other alcohol related cases.

GTSO immediately began an internal review of its deputies' certifications and requested an additional review by the Michigan State Police Intoxilyzer Unit. GTSO also worked with the Grand Traverse County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Traverse City Police Department, and Michigan Sheriffs' Association to identify and address the concerns.

As a precaution, GTSO immediately directed deputies to stop using the Intoxilyzer 9000 at the jail and to use blood draws to determine levels of intoxication instead.

The review identified issues involving the recertification process and the dates entered in to the Intoxilyzer 9000. In particular a deputy whose certification had lapsed could complete a recertification course and receive a new certificate of completion, despite the requirement under Administrative Rule R 325.2658 that an operator with a lapsed certification complete the initial certification program.

The review also determined that the Intoxilyzer 9000 would accept other certification dates entered by an operator, rather than requiring the operator's actual certification date and still complete the analysis.

GTSO identified the deputies affected and has taken steps to bring all operators into compliance. Initial certification training has been scheduled through the Michigan State Police for August 27 and October 7, 2026. Upon completion of the required training, all affected GTSO deputies will be fully certified to operate the Intoxilyzer 9000.

GTSO has also implemented additional safeguards, including certification cards for deputies to carry when administering the test and an internal system for tracking certification status and expiration dates.

GTSO understands that the concerns identified may extend beyond the Sheriff's Office and Traverse City Police Department. The agencies involved continue to work cooperatively to address the issue and improve the certification process. Of 71 MCOLES certified officers, 17 are affected by this; 41 alcohol related cases.

The Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office takes the proper administration of impaired-driving testing seriously. We apologize for the concerns this situation has created and appreciate the cooperation of our law-enforcement partners and the public as we work to ensure all certification requirements are met moving forward.

