

Tioga County Sheriff's Office



from
Sheriff Gary W. Howard

News Release
Thursday, August 20, 2026

On January 3, 2026, the Tioga County Sheriff's Office responded to a head-on motor vehicle crash on State Route 79 in the Town of Richford. The preliminary investigation determined that a 2006 Chevrolet Colorado operated by 54-year-old David R. Welch of Freeville, NY was traveling west when the vehicle collided with a 2020 Honda Fit traveling east and operated by 47-year-old Todd E. Benedict of Binghamton, NY. Benedict was declared deceased at the scene, and both Welch and an adult female passenger in Benedict's vehicle suffered serious injuries as a result of the crash. The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the crash scene by the New York State Police, Richford Fire Department, Berkshire Fire Department, Maine EMS, Campville EMS, New York State Department of Transportation and the Tioga County Office of Emergency Services.

Following a six-month investigation performed by the Sheriff's Office Road Patrol and Criminal Investigation Division, the case was turned over to the Tioga County District Attorney's Office and presented to a Grand Jury. Following an indictment, Welch was arrested on 8/12/26 for Aggravated vehicular homicide (class B felony), Manslaughter 2nd degree (class C felony), Criminally negligent homicide (class E felony), Vehicular assault 2nd degree (class E felony), Driving while ability impaired by drugs (unclassified misdemeanor), and Reckless driving (unclassified misdemeanor). Welch was arraigned in Tioga County Court by Judge Adam Schumacher and released under the supervision of the Tioga County Probation Department pending future proceedings.

Approved by Undersheriff Richard Hallett
Posted 08/20/26 2:30 PM by Donna Gilligan