

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Willow Springs Police Department Safe Passage Program**

The opioid epidemic is plaguing and having a tremendous impact on all of our communities throughout the United States. As the drug overdose rate continues to rise at shocking rates, the Willow Springs Police Department is taking the initiative to save lives by launching the Safe Passage Program.

The program is designed to provide an option for opioid and heroin addicts to come forward to the police department and request help for their addiction without fear of any legal consequences. The Safe Passage Program focuses on anyone who is struggling with heroin or opioid painkiller addiction and are seeking guidance to enter into a treatment program. When reporting to the police station, the individual requesting help will talk with a police officer and arrangements will be made with an in-patient treatment facility. The program does not take the person's criminal history or insurance status into consideration when being accepted into the program.

The Willow Springs Police Department has partnered with the Family Guidance Center of Joliet, IL which is a non-profit behavioral healthcare organization. Family Guidance will work with Willow Springs residents who are uninsured as they provide referrals into their system. The significant value of the program is getting those impacted by the opioid epidemic into a treatment program immediately when they need it most. Most importantly before the person requesting the help overdoses or dies. Those needing help just need to be willing to come into the police station and request it -- from there, the Willow Springs Police Department will take all the necessary steps to get that person into a treatment program.

The Willow Springs Police Department is proud to introduce the Safe Passage Program to our community. Please contact the Willow Springs Police Department if you are interested in learning more about our Safe Passage Program, or if you know of someone who is struggling with opioid or heroin addiction.

Media Contact:

Jim Ritz  
Chief of Police