

I have learned that the career criminal now charged with murdering Rusk County Sheriff's Deputy Dan Glaze Saturday night was on extended supervision by the Department of Corrections at the time of the murder and that DOC agents failed to cite him for probation violations when he was accused of multiple crimes in July. Had DOC "violated" Doug Nitek's probation, he wouldn't have been able to kill Deputy Glaze near Ladysmith.

Nitek has a long criminal record including at least five drunken driving convictions and is a registered sex offender. He was sentenced to five years extended supervision and one year in jail after a 2011 conviction for operating while intoxicated, fifth of sixth offense. He was still on extended supervision when charged July 20 with multiples offenses including felony first degree endangering safety. Nitek was freed on a \$5000 signature bond in that case in Sawyer County. The charges against him also violated the terms of his extended supervision which included no consumption of alcohol. But the state Department of Corrections agent handling Nitek's case took no action on those violations.

I have reported on numerous cases of DOC agents recommending lenient sentences to felons because of reliance on a risk-based program called COMPAS. Former Corrections Secretary Ed Wall and his successor, Jon Litscher, have both defended COMPAS despite the many instances of criminals given soft sentences under COMPAS recommendations going on to commit further crimes. It is unclear if COMPAS is being used in probation violation cases. However, a DOC source tells me the reason Nitek was not violated is because of excessive reliance on risk assessment programs rather than agent judgment.

DOC spokesperson Tristan Cook confirms Nitek was under state supervision and says the agency is reviewing the case to see if any violations of protocol occurred. He would not comment on why a longterm career criminal like Nitek was allowed to remain free despite clear violation of his supervision terms.

Deputy Glaze was shot and killed, allegedly by Nitek, after responding to a report of a car in a field. Nitek is being held in Rusk County. Evidently DOC hasn't figured out how to let him back on the street this time.

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November 2

