



DAVID STEFFEN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 4TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2016

CONTACT: Rep. David Steffen
(608) 266-5840

Rep. David Steffen Announces Changes by Wisconsin Department of Corrections to Inmate Escape Notification Policy

Madison – Wisconsin State Representative David Steffen (R – Howard) today announced that the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) has made changes to its policies for notifying the public following an escape by an inmate from a minimum-security DOC facility.

After hearing from concerned citizens, Rep. Steffen met with the Department of Corrections to relay concerns regarding an incident late last year where the public was not notified of an inmate who had walked away from Winnebago Correctional Center for four days.

Previously, if a minimum security inmate walked away from a correctional facility or work release site, DOC would rely on local law enforcement to alert the public of the incident, as local law enforcement is responsible for apprehending escaped inmates.

Moving forward, DOC will provide notification directly to media and members of the public on a timely basis.

“I’m thankful for the Department of Corrections’ prompt response to my request for an enhanced public notification policy. Protecting the public through timely community-wide notification enhances the safety of every Wisconsin resident,” Rep. Steffen said.

“The core mission of the Department of Corrections is public safety. We would like to thank Representative Steffen for bringing these issues to our attention so that we can ensure that timely notification of inmate escapes is provided to the public,” said Department of Corrections Deputy Secretary Cathy Jess.

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