



# *Bates County Sheriff's Office*

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## **Press Release**

### **Bond Reduction in the Adrian Standoff Case**

Early this morning a hearing in regards to State of Missouri vs Rhonda L Baker was heard in Bates County Associate Circuit Court before the Honorable Judge Hopkins. Bond in that case was reduced \$20,000 to \$5,000.00 cash or surety.

Baker was arrested Friday November 8<sup>th</sup> after a 6 hour standoff. Baker and her boyfriend were held up in their home in rural Adrian. It was reported to Law Enforcement that Baker was suicidal and had threatened Law Enforcement. Baker was wanted for questioning on an assault that sent a 62 year female to the hospital on Monday November 4<sup>th</sup>.

During the standoff the boyfriend was considered a hostage because he told the negotiators that Baker would not allow him to leave the residence. He later told Law Enforcement that he was afraid that if he left the residence then she would either kill herself or cause the police officers to kill her. Baker and her boyfriend were convinced by Bates County's Crisis Negotiation Team to come out of the house. Baker denied that she was ever suicidal. Baker was charged with Assault 2<sup>nd</sup> degree with a bond set at \$20,000.

This is the Second Time that Ms. Baker has barricaded herself in the residence. On February 14, 2011 Ms. Baker allegedly pointed a gun at another person and law enforcement at the house. Ms. Baker retreated into the house and a 12 hour standoff took place. Eventually the police shot tear gas into the house to bring the situation to a peaceful ending. At the time of this new incident Ms. Baker was out of jail on a \$7500 bond for the 2011 Unlawful use of a weapon charge. That charge is scheduled for trial in early 2014.

On each of these incidents multiple agencies were called to assist. Thousands of dollars and resources were used to bring each incident to a peaceful resolution.

When asked about the bond reduction Sheriff Anderson's response was "Extremely disappointed, especially since this is our second time!! We continue to ask our law enforcement officers in this county to put themselves in the line of danger to protect our citizens from people like this just to see them get out of jail within days of the

event. It becomes hard to ask my deputies and their family to be prepared that they may make the ultimate sacrifice to protect the community. It's also tough to be the guy that talks to the neighbors or victims and try comfort and reassure them that they are safe in their homes."

Sheriff Anderson also added, "When I took Office, I swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the laws of this State and Nation. My staff and I fully intend to continue to protect the innocent and seek Justice for our citizens."