

## Fire Chief Pleads Not Guilty In Domestic Violence Case

Related To Story

POSTED: 11:45 am EDT July 21, 2006  
UPDATED: 12:29 pm EDT July 21, 2006

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Perry Township Fire Chief Raymond Meredith, 59, pleaded not guilty Friday to charges stemming from an alleged domestic violence incident at his home earlier this week.

Meredith faces seven counts in connection with the case, and has been placed on administrative leave. He is charged with criminal confinement, intimidation and pointing a firearm.

Meredith and his wife are getting a divorce. Two of Meredith's stepsons told police he pulled a pistol on his wife and them while she was moving out.



Raymond Meredith's attorney, Jackie Butler (right), says he's eager to face a jury.

### Fire Chief Pleads Not Guilty

Meredith had nothing to say to the media as he walked out of court Friday, but his attorneys said the charges are without merit.

"We're confident that it's going to get a 'not guilty.' We're ready, we're eager. Let's put it before a jury," said attorney Jackie Butler. "Let's let a jury make a determination and get him back out on the streets and let him protect us. That's what he does."

Court documents said Meredith pointed a gun at one of the stepsons and said, "Time is just about up. My finger is getting itchy."

Meredith told police he pulled his gun because it was late at night and he thought the stepsons were burglars.

"I believe that the chief filed a report the following day just to cover his own issues," said Chief Deputy Prosecutor David Wyser.

Another of Meredith's attorneys, Kathleen Sweeney, said Meredith acted in self-defense.

Meredith has been a community servant for more than 30 years, but the prosecutor's office said no one is above the law.

"It's an unfortunate situation that someone who is a public servant and who has done a lot of great things for the county has been involved in this situation, but it does not make a difference," Wyser said. "We will prosecute it just like any other case."

Meredith is out on bond. His trial date is set for Oct. 10.

**Previous Stories:**

- July 19, 2006: [Police: Fire Chief Pointed Gun At Wife, Her Sons](#)

*Copyright 2007 by [TheIndyChannel.com](http://TheIndyChannel.com) All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

# TheIndyChannel.com

## Ex-Fire Chief Acquitted In Domestic Incident

POSTED: 6:36 pm EDT July 18, 2007

**INDIANAPOLIS** — A former Perry Township fire chief was acquitted this week of several charges relating to accusations that he pointed a gun at his wife and her two adult sons.

A jury on Tuesday found Raymond Meredith not guilty of seven counts, including intimidation and criminal confinement, in connection with the July 2006 incident.

Meredith was Perry Township's fire chief when, according to police, he pointed a gun at his wife and her two sons as the sons were moving out of the couple's Indianapolis home.

The son told investigators that Meredith threatened to shoot both of them, according to police. Meredith maintained his innocence, telling police that it was late at night and he thought the three were burglars.

### Previous Stories:

- [July 21, 2006: Fire Chief Pleads Not Guilty In Domestic Violence Case](#)
- [July 19, 2006: Police: Fire Chief Pointed Gun At Wife, Her Sons](#)

*Copyright 2007 by TheIndyChannel.com All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*

## Indiana Supreme Court overturns sex registry conviction

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) -- The Indiana Supreme Court on Thursday overturned a man's conviction for not registering as a sex offender because he had already completed a sentence for child molesting before the state's Sex Offender Registration Act was enacted.

In a unanimous ruling, the court said the subsequent conviction of Richard P. Wallace two years ago violated the state constitution's prohibition of retroactive laws.

Applying the sex registration requirement to Wallace, who completed his probation two years before the law was enacted, would impose "burdens that have the effect of adding punishment beyond that which could have been imposed when his crime was committed," Justice Robert Rucker wrote in an 18-page opinion.

Wallace pleaded guilty to one count of child molesting in 1989 and was given a five-year suspended sentence plus probation. He completed the probation in 1992, and in 1994 the Legislature passed a law requiring registration of sex offenders. The law was amended in 2001 to require registration regardless when the offenders were convicted, and Wallace's ex-wife notified authorities in 2003 that he had never registered.

Wallace was convicted in Marion Superior Court and given an 18-month suspended sentence 2007, and the Indiana Court of Appeals affirmed that conviction last year.

In a separate ruling, the Supreme Court affirmed the conviction of an Allen County man who in 2000 pleaded guilty to one count of vicarious sexual gratification and one count of child molesting and spent three years in prison and another three on probation. He was also required under a separate state law at the time to register as a sex offender for 10 years.

But in 2006, the Legislature amended the law to require lifetime registration as a "sexually violent predator."

Jensen appealed the conviction in Allen Superior Court, arguing the law was retroactive and that his original plea agreement was made invalid because he wasn't advised he would have to register for life.

The Indiana Court of Appeals overturned the conviction, but in Thursday's 3-2 ruling the Supreme Court rejected his arguments, saying Jensen "cites no evidence of a punitive intent on the part of the Legislature. ... Thus we presume that the Legislature's intent was civil and regulatory, and not criminal or punitive in relation to the claim that the act is an ex post facto violation."

Copyright 2009 The Associated Press.

© Copyright 2009, Greene County Daily World  
Story URL: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1536372.html>