

# Former Clare Deputy found not guilty on assault charge

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A former Clare County Sheriff's deputy was acquitted of a domestic violence charge Wednesday after a two-day trial.

A jury in Isabella County Trial Judge Mark Duthie's courtroom found Jeremy Brickey Richardson, 31, not guilty of assaulting his wife, Ashley Richardson, in February.

Jurors deliberated for about an hour before delivering the verdict.

Richardson's attorney, Dan O'Neil, argued self defense and said he was pleased with the verdict.

"He may still have a career in law enforcement," O'Neil said.

Senior Assistant Prosecutor Stuart Black, who tried the case, said he is disappointed with the verdict and that jurors paid close attention during the trial, and "we accept their decision."

Richardson lost his job at the sheriff's department, where he worked for about eight months, after being arrested Feb. 4 for allegedly assaulting his wife.

He ended up back in the Isabella County Jail two days later, for allegedly violating a bond condition, Sheriff Leo Mioduszewski said at the time of Richardson's second arrest on Feb. 6.

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## Deputy

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Richardson was alleged to have assaulted his wife Feb. 4.

Deputies were called to his home in the 2000 block of West Beal City Road in Nottawa Township at 7:48 p.m. Feb. 4.

When officers arrived, they noted that Richardson's wife had left the home after the alleged assault in the couples' bedroom.

She called for help from her parents' home.

After the initial arrest, Richardson posted bond and was released from jail but was arrested again after deputies were called back to the home Feb. 5.

Richardson broke a bond condition by returning to the home.

He had been ordered to stay away from his wife, the sheriff said at the time of the second arrest.

Domestic violence is a 93-day misdemeanor.