

Killed for Being Lawfully Armed

*The Execution of Jalin Seabron and Law Enforcement
Impunity in Douglas County and Beyond*



By Denver Justice Project

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
The Killing of Jalin Seabron	3
Douglas County: Pro-Gun Culture, Anti-Black Policing	4
Perceived Threat Is Not a Justification for Murder	4
Deputy Nicholas Moore: A Pattern of Violence	5
Prosecutorial Decision and Legal Failures	6
Community Response and Demands	6
Conclusion	7
Media Links	8



Executive Summary

This case report examines the fatal police shooting of 23-year-old Jalin Seabron by Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy Nicholas Moore. On February 8, 2025, Jalin was fleeing a dangerous situation happening inside the Main Event in Highlands Ranch, Colorado. He was legally armed and acting defensively, prepared to protect his pregnant girlfriend after shots were fired inside the venue. Within seven seconds of arriving on scene to respond to the reported shooting inside the Main Event, Deputy Moore opened fire on Jalin in the parking lot—without identifying himself as law enforcement, issuing a warning he would use force, or giving Jalin any meaningful time to comply. Moore drove to the scene with an assault rifle resting on his lap, ready to shoot on sight. He made no attempt to evaluate the situation or distinguish between victims and threats before resorting to deadly force. Jalin was struck seven times in the side and back. He never fired his weapon. This was not a moment of uncertainty—it was a deadly miscalculation, a rushed and fatal decision made without discernment.

Despite clear violations of Colorado state law and internal department policy, District Attorney George Brauchler announced on April 7, 2025 his decision not to press charges. He cited Moore's perceived threat, disregarding the legal standards that require de-escalation and the exhaustion of nonviolent alternatives.

This case is emblematic of a larger pattern in American policing: the disproportionate and deadly assumptions that criminalize Black and Brown men, particularly those exercising their constitutional rights—such as the right to bear arms and the right to self-defense—in jurisdictions that claim to uphold Second Amendment freedoms. Jalin Seabron was executed not for breaking the law, but for being a Black man with a gun in a county that prides itself on protecting those very rights—when they are a privilege for some and a death sentence for others.

The Killing of Jalin Seabron

Failure to Identify as Law Enforcement: Deputy Moore did not announce himself as an officer before engaging, violating Colorado law CRS § 18-1-707(4) and department policy B-106(b).

Inadequate Warning Before Use of Force: The command “Drop the gun” was issued less than two seconds before Moore opened fire, giving Jalin no meaningful time to comply, in direct violation of CRS § 18-1-707 and internal policy.

Shooting a Fleeing Individual: Seven of the nine bullets fired struck Jalin in the side or back, indicating he was turned away from Deputy Moore. This is inconsistent with any claim of Jalin presenting an active threat.



Legally Armed and Not Firing: Jalin never fired his weapon. Possession alone—especially during an active shooter situation in a pro-open carry county—is not grounds for the use of deadly force.

Attempting to Protect Loved Ones: Jalin was protecting his pregnant girlfriend and fleeing from a violent situation where multiple people had firearms, not initiating one.

Douglas County: Pro-Gun Culture, Anti-Black Policing

Open Carry Encouraged by Law: In 2014, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners replaced two resolutions that had banned the open carry of firearms in county facilities, parks, trails, and open spaces with a new resolution allowing open carry in those areas. In 2024, the county also opted out of new state legislation restricting firearms in government buildings.

Selective Application of Gun Rights: White residents openly carrying firearms are seen as exercising their rights. Black and Brown residents, like Jalin, are treated as immediate threats—despite exercising the same rights.

Systemic Racial Bias in Enforcement: Jalin’s case is not an outlier but part of a broader pattern across Colorado where Black gun ownership and self-defense—is criminalized and weaponized against the individual. Legal rights that are protected for white gun owners are routinely denied to Black gun owners when they assert their right to self-defense.

Failure to Train for Local Policy: If a jurisdiction supports open carry, officers must be trained accordingly. Pro-gun laws create more complex and high-stakes encounters for law enforcement—requiring greater discipline, clearer protocols, and a heightened commitment to identifying actual threats. Douglas County deputies are not equipped with the training or mindset needed to navigate these situations without resorting to unlawful and deadly outcomes.

Public Messaging vs. Enforcement Reality: The county’s public stance on Second Amendment protections is not reflected in its law enforcement practices.

Douglas County’s Contrasting Responses: In the 2019 STEM School Highlands Ranch shooting, two students opened fire inside a school, resulting in one death and eight injuries. Both shooters were taken into custody alive. Douglas County has the capacity to apprehend armed white suspects without deadly force, in sharp contrast to the lethal response used against Jalin, who never discharged his weapon and posed no immediate threat to law enforcement.

Perceived Threat Is Not a Justification for Murder

Fear Is Not an Objective Standard: Officer fear is often cited as justification for use of force, but it is a subjective measure prone to racial bias and should never override legal standards.



Legal Standards Require Immediacy and Proportionality: CRS § 18-1-707 only permits deadly force if an individual poses an immediate threat of death or serious bodily harm. Jalin did not.

The Right to Self-Defense Is Unequally Applied: Jalin was attempting to protect himself and his partner after shots were fired inside the venue. But when Black or Brown individuals are seen with a weapon, they are immediately treated as criminals—not people defending themselves. The legal right to self-defense is stripped away the moment they are perceived as a threat.

Weapon Possession Alone Is Not a Threat: Open carry is legal. Jalin’s lawful possession of a firearm did not equate to a threat, nor was there evidence of hostile intent toward law enforcement.

Bias Embedded in Split-Second Decisions: In the absence of due assessment, officers default to deadly assumptions and racial bias. Jalin’s race and possession of a firearm became the justification for his death.

Deputy Nicholas Moore: A Pattern of Violence

Multiple Prior Shootings: Moore fired his weapon in two separate officer-involved shootings in 2022, both of which resulted in death. According to a 2017 Pew Research Center survey, only 27% of officers report ever discharging their service weapon while on duty. This means approximately 73% of officers complete their careers without ever firing their gun in the line of duty, making Moore’s record highly irregular.

Statistical Outlier Among Officers: Further data from the National Policing Institute shows that of officers involved in officer-involved shootings, 15% had one prior officer involved shooting experience, and only 5% had discharged their weapon two or more times. Moore’s repeated use of deadly force places him in the extreme minority of American law enforcement.

Red Flags Promoted by Department: Despite these prior incidents, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Office retained Moore in high-risk and high-authority roles, including the Pattern Crimes Unit, Regional SWAT Team, and as a Field Training Officer.

Violent Officers as Trainers: Moore currently trains new deputies, modeling behavior that includes multiple fatal shootings. Entrusting officers with a history of killing multiple people to train others signals an institutional culture that promotes a pattern and practice of encouraging violence.

Impunity Undermines Public Safety: Deputies with a documented pattern of excessive or deadly force should be held accountable in a court of law. Allowing Moore to remain on the force—and to train others—sends a clear message that repeat violence is acceptable.



Prosecutorial Decision and Legal Failures

Failure to Identify and Warn: Colorado law (CRS § 18-1-707) requires that officers clearly identify themselves as law enforcement and issue a verbal warning with adequate time for compliance before using deadly force. Moore failed to do either. Bodycam footage shows he shouted “Hey” and then “Drop the gun” just seconds before opening fire—without identifying himself.

Lack of Transparency in Bodycam Footage: From the beginning, the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department argued that only edited versions of the body camera footage should be released to the public. This violates Colorado law (SB20-217), which mandates that “the local law enforcement agency or the Colorado State Patrol shall release all unedited video and audio recordings of the incident... to the public.” By attempting to restrict access to the full footage, the department broke the law and actively concealed the truth to protect the officer involved.

Insufficient Justification for Use of Force: District Attorney George Brauchler’s justification relied on Moore’s use of flashing lights on his vehicle as a substitute for proper identification. Moore did not activate his audible sirens—a tactical decision, according to reports, intended to allow him to arrive undetected. Yet after the fact, the DA claimed the flashing lights should have been enough for Jalin to recognize him as law enforcement. That expectation is contradictory and unfounded. There was no clear reason to believe Jalin knew Deputy Moore was a law enforcement officer.

Contradiction of Legislative Intent: SB20-217 was passed to increase law enforcement accountability and prevent exactly these types of shootings. It mandates that officers exhaust nonviolent options before resorting to lethal force. Brauchler’s decision to absolve Moore contradicts the core intent of the statute, allowing continued impunity in officer-involved shootings.

Prosecutorial Failure Undermines Equal Protection: By refusing to prosecute Deputy Moore, the 23rd Judicial District abdicated its responsibility to hold law enforcement accountable for unlawful use of force. This is not unusual: in 2024, fewer than 3% of fatal police shootings nationwide resulted in charges (*Mapping Police Violence, 2024*). District Attorneys have the power—and obligation—to enforce the law equally. Instead, DA Brauchler reinforced a double standard: that officers who could reasonably be found guilty of a crime are shielded from having to appear in court. No charges mean no trial, no jury, and no public examination of the facts.

Community Response and Demands

Call for Termination of Deputy Moore: The community demands the immediate firing of Nicholas Moore for violating state law and departmental policy, and for his repeated use of lethal force.



Failure to Initiate and Disclose Internal Affairs Investigation: More than four months after Jalin Seabron was killed, the Douglas County Sheriff's Office has not publicly disclosed any internal affairs investigation into Deputy Moore—an ongoing failure that demands immediate correction through Moore's termination and a transparent, public investigation.

Referral for Independent Investigation: Given the DA's failure to act, advocates demand that Colorado's Attorney General open an independent criminal investigation.

POST Certification Revocation: Moore must be barred from working in law enforcement. His POST certification should be revoked permanently.

Training Reform in Pro-Gun Jurisdictions: Deputies must be trained to handle complex situations involving legally armed civilians. This is especially critical in counties like Douglas that encourage public firearm possession.

Equal Enforcement of Self-Defense Gun Laws: Communities are demanding that the same legal protections afforded to white gun owners be extended to Black residents. Selective enforcement is unconstitutional and deadly.

Conclusion

Predictable Outcome of a Racist System: Jalin Seabron's death was not the result of a lone mistake—it was the direct result of a system operating exactly as it was built: one that criminalizes Black people for defending themselves, protects violent officers from accountability, and upholds a racist double standard in the enforcement of gun rights and use of force.

Broader Implications for Colorado: This case highlights the risks of open carry environments where law enforcement is not held to clear standards. If laws are to be meaningful, they must be enforced fairly.

A Pattern, Not an Anomaly: Jalin's case fits a broader national pattern of unarmed or legally armed Black men being killed by police. In 2024 alone, law enforcement killed at least 1,365 people in the U.S.—the highest number in over a decade. Black individuals were 2.9 times more likely than white individuals to be killed by police (*Mapping Police Violence*, 2024).

Demand for Systemic Change: Until law enforcement officers are charged and prosecuted for killing people—under the same legal standards that apply to everyone else—these deadly patterns will continue. The protections promised under the law mean little when DAs routinely uphold a culture of impunity, shielding officers from consequences and denying justice to those they kill



Media Links

[Mapping Police Violence: 2024 Was the Deadliest Year for Police Violence](#)

[Officer Involved Shootings: National Policing Institute](#)

[Bodycam Footage](#)

[Jalin Seabron's family pushed for release of the sheriff's bodycam](#)

[Law firm says video of deadly shooting by Colorado deputy at The Main Event contradicts Douglas County sheriff's statements](#)

[Douglas County DA said deputy 'did not commit a crime' when he fatally shot Jalin Seabron](#)

[DA won't charge Douglas County deputy in shooting of Jalin Seabron](#)

[Family rallies for justice after DA's decision not to charge deputy](#)

