



# Elkhart police: Teen was trying to protect home, accidentally shot himself and sister

BY JASON OVERHOLT, WSBT 22 | INVALID DATE



Elkhart Police// WSBT 22 Photo



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Elkhart police say it appears a 14-year-old boy accidentally shot himself and his 6-year-old sister after getting spooked by loud banging and yelling at the front door.

This happened at a home in the 300 block of East Carlton Avenue around 7:45 p.m. The boy and his sister were taken to Elkhart General Hospital with injuries that do not appear to be life threatening.

After an investigation, police say it appears the boy was holding the gun when his sister grabbed him around the waist and startled him, making him pull the trigger. He was grazed in the leg and his sister was also hit in the leg.

The gun belonged to the kids' mother, say police.

The following release was issued Monday night by the Elkhart Police Department:

*At this point in the investigation it appears three children a fourteen (14) year old male, a nine (9) year old male and six (6) year old female were at home when there was loud banging and somebody yelling at the front door. This frightened the kids and the 14 year old male got a handgun from inside the residence to protect his brother, sister and himself. The 14 year old male was handling the handgun when his 6 year old sister grabbed him around the waist which startled him. When he was startled he accidentally fired the handgun. When the handgun went off the bullet grazed the 14 year old male in the leg and struck his 6 year old sister in the upper leg. The juveniles ran to a neighbor's house to call for help.*

*The 14 year old male and the 6 year old female were both transported by ambulance to Elkhart General Hospital for treatment. At this time neither gunshot injury appear to be life threatening.*

*The handgun, which belonged to the children's mother, was recovered at the scene.*

*The case remains under investigation.*

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