

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 17-07943**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 17-07943

OIG Inspector: Inspector Jason Vann

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Lawrence Perez

Date Assigned or Initiated: 5-9-2017

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Columbia Correctional Institution

Complainant: Inmate Charles Bryant

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0042

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death (Accidental)

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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I. AUTHORITY

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and § 944.31, Florida Statutes, is authorized to conduct any criminal investigation that occurs on property owned or leased by the department or involves matters over which the department has jurisdiction.

The testimony references included in this report are summations of oral or written statements provided to inspectors. Statements contained herein do not necessarily represent complete or certified transcribed testimony, except as noted. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, all interviews with witnesses, complainants, and subjects were audio or video recorded.

II. METHODOLOGY

The investigation reviewed the derivations of the allegation advanced by the complainant. The scope of this investigation does not seek to specifically address tort(s), but violations of criminal statutes. The criterion used to evaluate each contention or allegation was limited to the following standard of analysis:

1. Did the subject's action or behavior violate Florida criminal statutes?

III. ANALYSIS

The standard and analysis in this investigation is predicated with the burden of proving any violation of law, established by probable cause. The evidence considered for analysis is confined to the facts and allegations stated or reasonably implied. The actions or behavior of the subject are presumed to be lawful and in compliance with the applicable Florida law, unless probable cause indicates the contrary.



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IV. DEFINITIONS

Unfounded:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause does not exist to suggest the suspect's behavior or action occurred nor is an arrest or formal charge being initiated.

Closed by Arrest:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

Exceptionally Cleared:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified suspect committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated, or in the case of a death investigation, one for which no evidence exists that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

Open-Inactive:

Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

Investigative Assist Closed

Refers to a disposition of an investigative assist, where the conduct being investigated by the outside agency did not concern allegations against a Department employee, contractor, inmate, offender, or other person either employed or under the supervision of the Department.



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V. PREDICATE

On May 5, 2017 on-call Inspector Jason Vann was dispatched in reference to an [REDACTED] inmate at Columbia Correctional Institution Annex (CCI). Inmate Charles Bryant DC# H29247 was found [REDACTED] in a two-man, secure cell (T-4111) and had been [REDACTED]. During transport, Inmate Bryant was [REDACTED] and subsequently [REDACTED]. On May 8, 2017, Bryant was pronounced deceased by the [REDACTED].

Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent (SA) Larry Perez responded to this incident and advised FDLE would take the lead in this investigation (FDLE Case# TL-37-0042). This information was reported to the Office of Inspector General and assigned to Inspector Vann as an *Investigative Assist* on May 9, 2017.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, subject officer's statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On May 9, 2017, I attended the autopsy of Inmate Bragg, along with SA Perez. The procedure was performed by Dr. Robert Buchsbaum of the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO) in Jacksonville, Florida. Dr. Buchsbaum advised he found no evidence of [REDACTED] to indicate cause of death, but would wait on toxicology screening before a final determination was made.

On May 10, 2017, SA Perez submitted an *Investigative Demand* to obtain necessary (non-medical) documents concerning Inmate Bryant.

On May 30, 2017, SA Perez received the Autopsy Report which indicated Inmate Bryant's *Cause of Death* as [REDACTED] and the *Manner of Death* to be "Accidental".

Subsequently, SA Perez forwarded case TL-37-0042 which includes activities conducted during this investigation as well as SA Perez' Summary, and is attached to this report. SA Perez also briefed 3rd Judicial Circuit Assistant State Attorney, John Durret who advised that no criminal charges would be brought about concerning Inmate Bryant's death. A review of SA Perez' report revealed no Administrative issues.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

No violation

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Lawrence Perez the death of Inmate Charles Bryant be termed as follows:



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1. Accidental, due to [REDACTED]

Inspector Vann reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.