

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 15-179**



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



**Table of Contents**

<b><u>I. AUTHORITY</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>II. METHODOLOGY</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>III. ANALYSIS</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>IV. DEFINITIONS</u></b>	<b>5</b>
<b><u>V. PREDICATE</u></b>	<b>6</b>
<b><u>VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS</u></b>	<b>6</b>
<b><u>VII. CHARGES</u></b>	<b>8</b>
<b><u>VIII. CONCLUSION</u></b>	<b>8</b>



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**Case Number:** 15-179

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Maurice Radford

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 01-07-2015

**Complaint Against:** Inmate Sheffield, Harry DC# 063843

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Century Correctional Institution

**Complainant:** Correctional Officer Captain Gregory Stokes

**Outside Agency Case #:** PE-37-0014

**Use of Force Number:** N/A

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Death Investigation

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes  No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes  No

**Chief Inspector General Case Number:** N/A



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



**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.



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



#### **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.



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



**V. PREDICATE**

On or about January 4, 2015, Inmate Harry Sheffield, DC# 063843 was housed F-dormitory at Century Correctional Institution. At approximately 12:20 p.m., F-dormitory officers were advised by Inmate Joseph Bellamy, DC# Q25170, Inmate Sheffield was [REDACTED] responded to F-dormitory and transported Inmate Sheffield to [REDACTED]. At approximately 4:50 p.m., Inmate Sheffield [REDACTED] was contacted. At 4:55 p.m., [REDACTED] arrived at Century Correctional Institution. At 5:03 p.m., [REDACTED] staff pronounced Inmate Sheffield deceased from [REDACTED] causes. On January 7, 2015, the District-1 Field Office of the Inspector General assigned Law Enforcement Inspector Ron Castle a criminal investigation to assist the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in their investigation of the death of Inmate Sheffield.

**VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

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

On January 4, 2015, at approximately 5:40 p.m., Inspector Ron Castle was notified by Inspector Supervisor David Clark to report to Century Correctional Institution to assist the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in the [REDACTED] death of Inmate Sheffield.

At approximately 7:05 p.m., Inspector Ron Castle arrived at Century Correctional Institution (CENCI) and began gathering incident reports, [REDACTED] and next of kin information of deceased Inmate Sheffield, along with the names of witnesses and [REDACTED] staff.

At approximately 7:15 p.m., FDLE special agents began arriving, including Special Agent Supervisor Christopher Rigoni, along with Special Agents Meaghan Palumbo and Kristen Brennan. Agent Supervisor Rigoni contacted the Medical Examiner's Office, briefed them on deceased Inmate Sheffield's [REDACTED] and the circumstances leading up to his death. The Medical Examiner's Office advised they would not be responding and authorized the release of deceased Inmate Sheffield's body to his next of kin.

At the request of Agent Supervisor Rigoni, Inspector Ron Castle assisted Agents Palumbo and Brennan in interviewing possible inmate witnesses.

Agent Palumbo was assigned as lead investigator under FDLE Case Number PE-37-0014.

On January 5, 2015, Inspector Ron Castle received an email from Forensic Investigator Kristen Cavener of the District 1 Medical Examiner's Office requesting a copy of [REDACTED] of deceased Inmate Sheffield.

On January 7, 2015, Inspector Ron Castle obtained a copy of deceased Inmate Sheffield's [REDACTED] and sent the documents to Forensic Investigator Cavener via email.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
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**INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT**



On January 7, 2015, Inspector Castle received a telephone call from Forensic Investigator Cavener of the District 1 Medical Examiner's Office requesting information as to the current location of deceased

Inspector Castle advised [REDACTED] had previously indicated Inmate Sheffield's next of kin had arranged for deceased Inmate Sheffield's body to be temporarily stored at the Jay Hospital located in Jay, Florida, pending transport to the family's selected funeral location in Davie, Florida.

Investigator Cavener advised the decision not to conduct an autopsy had been reversed, and an autopsy would be performed on Friday, January 9, 2015, provided Inmate Sheffield's body could be located.

On January 9, 2015, Inspector Ron Castle attended the autopsy of deceased Inmate Sheffield at the District 1 Medical Examiner's Office located in Pensacola, Florida. Medical Examiner Doctor Andrea Minyard advised deceased Inmate Sheffield's preliminary cause of death appeared to be from [REDACTED]. Doctor Minyard noted her final determination would not be made until after toxicology test results were received.

On February 6, 2015, Inspector Ron Castle sent an email message to FDLE Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo and to District 1 Medical Examiner Forensic Investigator Kristen Cavener, advising the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, had received a "Whistle Blower" allegation indicating a review of deceased Inmate Sheffield's [REDACTED] which contributed to and/or caused his death.

On August 31, 2015, this investigative assist case was reassigned from Inspector Ron Castle to Inspector Maurice Radford for completion.

On September 25, 2015, Inspector Maurice Radford obtained and reviewed Certification of Death #215006537 reference Inmate Harry Lee Sheffield. The review determined Inmate Sheffield was born on August 5, 1950 in Statesboro, Georgia and died at the age of 64 [REDACTED] at Century Correctional Institution at 5:03 p.m. on January 4, 2015, while in the custody of the Florida Department of Corrections. The death certificate indicates an autopsy was performed on Inmate Sheffield's body by Medical Examiner Andrea Minyard who determined the cause of death [REDACTED]. The record also indicates the final disposition of Inmate Sheffield's body was cremation at Everglades Crematorium in West Park, Florida.

On September 28, 2015, Inspector Maurice Radford obtained and reviewed FDLE case summary report #PE-37-0014/9 dated August 6, 2015, submitted by the primary investigator, Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo. The review revealed Agent Palumbo determined no criminal violations were applicable based upon the final autopsy report for Inmate Sheffield which indicated the cause of death [REDACTED].

*Note: This investigation found no violations of Florida Administrative Code or Department of Corrections Procedures.*

**VII. CHARGES**



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**INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT**



- N/A

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, FDLE Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo determined no criminal violations were applicable based upon the final autopsy report for Inmate Sheffield which indicated the cause of death to be [REDACTED].

- This investigation is deemed as: **Investigative Assist Closed**

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