

Florida Department of Corrections
Office of the Inspector General

Case Number: 11-4-2707



“I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any of the rights contained in ss.112.532 and 112.533, Florida Statutes.”

“Furthermore, under penalties of perjury, I declare I have read the attached report and the contents of the report are true and accurate based upon my personal knowledge, information, and belief.”

James Mitchell

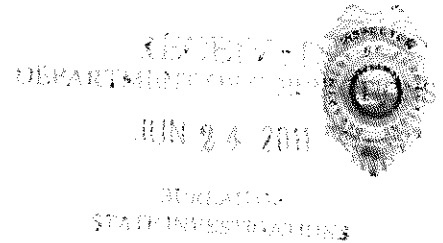
Inspectors Signature

06/22/11
Date

 COPY



Florida Department of Corrections
 Office of the Inspector General
 Report of Investigation
 Terrance Edmonson, Inspector General



Inspector General Case #: 11-4-2707

Facility: Hardee Correctional Institution

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]
 15-B

Field Office/Region: Fort Lauderdale/ IV

Incident Date: 04/28/11

Time: 12:45am

Inspector: James Mitchell

Date of Report: 06/22/11

Case Type: A

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Department of Corrections presented to State Attorney Declined Accepted
- Use of Force (UOF) Number (if applicable)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)
- Addendum
- Wing Video Camera(s) Present in the Area of Incident

SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

On 04/28/11, Inmate Steven Rivet was found hanging [REDACTED] in his cell E4109, located in Quad 4 of E Dormitory. This was reported via MINS on 04/28/11 and assigned for investigation on 04/28/11.

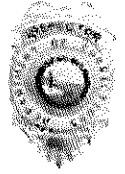
SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

As a result of this investigation, it is determined that on 04/28/11, Inmate Steven Rivet was found hanging by a small piece of white cloth tied around his neck from the top hinge on the inside of his cell door. He was pronounced dead [REDACTED] at 1:31 A. M.

The preliminary autopsy report conducted by Steven Nelson M. D. on 04/29/11, revealed the cause of death [REDACTED]. The death was ruled to be a suicide. There were no administrative issues found.



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
Complainant:	Spencer, Robert	Captain	[REDACTED]	20240
Victim:	Rivet, Steven	DC # 114652	[REDACTED]	
Witness(es):	Spencer, Brian	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	20246
	Sneider, Joshua	Correctional Officer	[REDACTED]	46133
	Thomas, Ryan	Sergeant	[REDACTED]	21293
	Belcher, Francis	Inspector	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]			
Subject(s):	None			

Arrest: Employee Inmate Other

Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony Misdemeanor Date of Arrest:

Date Reported:

Final Court Action(s):

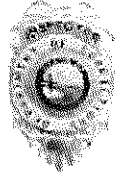
Other Agency Case Number:

FINDINGS:

In his Incident Report and in his sworn affidavit, Sergeant Brian Spencer indicated that on 04/28/11, he was assigned as E Dormitory supervisor. At approximately [REDACTED] he was conducting a security check in Quad 4 of E Dormitory. Spencer passed cell E4109, which was solely occupied by Inmate Steven Rivet. He looked into the cell from the outside and did not see Inmate Steven Rivet on his bunk. He took his flashlight and looked into the cell from the cell door window. He observed Inmate Rivet standing directly behind the cell door. Spencer verbally called for Rivet in an attempt to get his attention. Rivet did not respond. At approximately 12:48 A. M., he, Correctional Officer Joshua Sneider and Sergeant Ryan Thomas entered the cell. When they entered the cell, they observed Inmate Steven Rivet [REDACTED] hanging by a small piece of white cloth tied around his neck from the top hinge on the inside of his cell door. There were several books found below Rivet's feet. The ligature tool was obtained, the cloth was cut and Inmate Rivet was placed on the floor.



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Inspector Francis Belcher conducted a search of Inmate Steven Rivet's cell E4109. During his search, he discovered [REDACTED] on the top of his bunk. The letter was addressed to Rivet's "Mom, Dad and Family". [REDACTED] Belcher indicated that there was no evidence found indicating any signs of foul play. (Exhibit A-11)

The Incident Reports and affidavits obtained are consistent with the sequence of events that occurred regarding the incident.

There are no fixed wing cameras located in the area where the incident occurred.

[REDACTED] damage to Steven Rivet or to any other inmate or staff member. (Exhibit A-12)

Photographs were taken of Inmate Steven Rivet's body and of his cell and are contained on a disc. (Exhibit B-1)

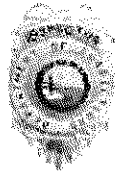
Witnesses interviewed indicated that Inmate Rivet appeared to be [REDACTED] prior to his death. A review of his phone calls revealed that he spoke with his mother and sister on 04/27/11. There was no evidence found [REDACTED]

On 04/29/11, I attended the autopsy that was performed by Doctor Steven Nelson M. D. of the District Ten Medical Examiner's Office. The results of the autopsy are the same as previously stated in the summary of disposition in this report.

As of the date of this report, the official autopsy report has not been finalized. Once received, a copy of the report will be attached to the file. If there are any changes or additional information to the findings an addendum will follow.



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James Mitchell

 James Mitchell Inspector

06/22/11
 Date

Marilyn Henderson

 Regional Supervisor / Lead Inspector

06/23/11
 Date

Kathleen Howell

 Lead Supervisor

6/23/11
 Date

 Interim Deputy Inspector General / Interim Deputy Inspector General
 Chief of Investigations Chief of Special Operations

 Date

 Inspector General

 Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Incident Report by Sergeant Brian Spencer
2. Affidavit of Sergeant Brian Spencer
3. Incident Report by Correctional Officer Joshua Sneider
4. Affidavit of Correctional Officer Joshua Sneider
5. Incident Report by Sergeant Ryan Thomas
6. Affidavit of Sergeant Ryan Thomas
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
10. [REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED] Inmate Steven Rivet
12. [REDACTED] Inmate Steven Rivet

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

1. CD containing photographs of Inmate Steven Rivet's body and cell