

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 12-2923



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**CASE 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>7</b>
<b><u>VIII. CONCLUSION</u></b>	<b>7</b>



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
CASE SUMMARY REPORT



**Case Number:** 12-2923

**Inspector:** Senior Inspector Raleigh Sistrunk

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 12-20-2012

**Complaint Against:** Inmate Johnny Reed DC# 116598

**Complainant:** Sergeant Robert Roberts

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

**Charges:** Inmate ██████ Death

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes  No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes  No

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

I.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**CASE SUMMARY REPORT**



## **AUTHORITY**

The Florida Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, by designation of the Secretary and ss. 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.

## **IV.**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**CASE SUMMARY REPORT**



**DEFINITIONS**

**Closed by Arrest:**

The reported criminal offense for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which arrest or formal prosecution is initiated.

**Exceptionally Cleared:**

The reported criminal offense for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense, but one for which an arrest or formal charge is not initiated. Or in the case of a death investigation when no evidence exist that the death was the result of a crime or neglect.

**Open Inactive:**

The reported criminal offense for which a criminal investigation commenced, but where evidence is insufficient to close as unfounded, closed by arrest, or exceptionally cleared.

**Unfounded:**

The reported criminal offense is not supported by evidence or facts obtained.

V.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
CASE SUMMARY REPORT



**PREDICATE**

On December 21, 2012, at approximately 8:00pm, while assigned as the Region II on call Inspector, I was advised by on call Supervisor, Joseph Aretino to respond to Florida State Prison Main Unit regarding an [REDACTED]. Upon my arrival, I was briefed by Warden John Palmer and advised that Inmate Johnny Reed DC# 116598 had been found hanging in Cell #L1205 which is a Close Management II, single-man cell. Staff was alerted to Reed covering his window. When staff responded and ordered Reed to remove the covering, they received no response. Upon arrival of the Shift Supervisors, the food flap was opened and the covering moved which revealed Reed was hanging from the air vent. The cell was breached and the ligature cut and Reed was placed on the floor. [REDACTED] by security staff. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] pronounced Inmate Reed deceased.

**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 December 20, 2012, at approximately 7:28pm, while assigned as L-Wing Supervisor at Florida State Prison, Sergeant Robert Roberts was advised by another inmate that Inmate Johnny Reed had his cell door window covered and then instructed Officer Christian Gray to advise Inmate Reed to remove the covering. Officer Gray was unable to get a response from Inmate Reed and requested assistance. After several attempts to obtain a response from Inmate Reed, Captain Robert Bonsall and Lieutenant William Hall cautiously breached the cell door and observed Inmate Reed hanging from a ligature tied above the cell door. Inmate Reed was cut down from the ligature [REDACTED]. Inmate Reed was pronounced dead at 8:45pm.

A review of the fixed wing video shows events consistent with reports from staff and inmate witnesses and no foul play is suspected. Inmate Reed was housed alone in his cell and video shows him accepting his evening meal and security staff making appropriate security checks and it appears staff responded to the incident in a prompt and professional manner.

An autopsy was conducted at the Gainesville Medical Examiner's Office. The Medical Examiner determined that Inmate Johnny Reed died as a result of suicide [REDACTED].

During the course of this investigation, an allegation was made concerning Officer James Fidler. That allegation was reported in MINS # 471719 and is not addressed in this investigative report.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**CASE SUMMARY REPORT**



**VII. CHARGES**

N/A

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is determined that Inmate Johnny Reed committed suicide [REDACTED]. There is no evidence to suggest any foul play in the death of Inmate Reed.

**1. This case is closed, Exceptionally Cleared**

I Raleigh Sistrunk, do hereby swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury:

- That I have read the foregoing document and, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, the facts stated therein are true and accurate.