

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 15-10989**



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



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Case Number: 15-10989

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Janene McLaughlin

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Gary Negrinelli

Date Assigned or Initiated: June 3, 2015

Complaint Against: N/A

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

Complainant: N/A

Outside Agency Case #: FM-37-0008

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number:

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death-Suicide

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 June 3, 2015, at approximately [redacted], at Charlotte Correctional Institution, Officer John Woodruff was conducting a [redacted], when he observed Inmate Robert Peterkin, DC#166924, with one end of a belt tied around his neck and the other end tied to the shower door bars in the shower nearest [redacted]. Inmate Peterkin was [redacted]. Inmate Peterkin was removed from the shower and [redacted]. Inmate Peterkin was taken to the facility [redacted] where [redacted]. Inmate Peterkin was transported via [redacted] and was [redacted]. On June 4, 2015, Inmate Peterkin's [redacted] and Inmate Peterkin was pronounced deceased on June 4, 2015, at 12:25pm. On June 3, 2015, this was assigned as an investigative assist to Senior Inspector Janene McLaughlin. Florida Department of Law Enforcement Primary Investigator Special Agent Gary Negrinelli is in charge of this investigation FM-37-0008.

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 June 3, 2015, at approximately 12:11pm, while at Charlotte Correctional Institution, Captain Michael Worst contacted me (Inspector McLaughlin) and advised a possible inmate death may have occurred. Captain Worst reported that Inmate Robert Peterkin, DC#166924, was placed into the shower near [redacted] pending placement into a confinement cell. During a [redacted], officers discovered Inmate Peterkin hanging and [redacted]. There were no other occupants inside the shower. [redacted] and Inmate Peterkin was transported to [redacted].

At approximately 12:13pm, contact was made to Assistant Chief of Investigations Kathleen Harrell and advised her of the incident and that I would make contact with Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

At approximately 12:13pm, I contacted the FDLE Duty Desk and provided them with necessary information concerning the incident.

At approximately 1:02pm, FDLE Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Shane Pollard made contact with me and advised FDLE agents will be en-route to Charlotte CI.

At approximately 2:00pm, the following FDLE Agents responded to Charlotte CI and a briefing was conducted:

- SAS Shane Pollard
- SA Daniel Mehler (attended autopsy of Inmate Peterkin)
- SA Gary Negrinelli (Primary Investigator)



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An "Investigative Demand for Records Pursuant to Criminal Investigation" was completed by SA Gary Negrinelli concerning this incident.

At approximately 2:44pm, I escorted the FDLE Agents to _____ where they were able to observe the crime scene. SA Mehler took photographs of the scene and SA Negrinelli collected evidence from the scene. Items removed by FDLE were:

- One black nylon belt
- One belt buckle
- One letter

On June 3, 2015, I provided FDLE with the following items:

- One CD containing photographs of the scene which were taken by security staff.
- One CD containing _____ during the time period Inmate Peterkin was confined in the shower.
- List of staff and inmate witnesses
- OIG history for Inmate Peterkin
- Critical Incident Report from Colonel P. Riggins
- _____
- Inmate bed assignment for A1 for June 3, 2015
- Classification log for Inmate Peterkin
- Internal movement history for Inmate Peterkin
- Disciplinary report history for Inmate Peterkin
- _____ for June 3, 2015 (Administrative Shift and Day B Shift)
- Inmate Population Information Detail for Inmate Peterkin
- Contact information for Ms. Maureen Peterkin, sister of Inmate Peterkin

On June 3, 2015, I assisted FDLE in arranging for select staff and inmates for interviews.

On June 4, 2015, at approximately 12:11pm, Inmate Peterkin was _____. At approximately 12:25pm, Inmate Peterkin was pronounced deceased. At approximately 12:30pm, I notified FDLE Inmate Peterson was deceased.

On June 4, 2015, Captain Michael Worst sent an email concerning reviewed inmate telephone calls made by Inmate Peterkin. Calls were made but they contained nothing out of the ordinary or any complaints.

On June 10, 2015, the following items were provided to FDLE:

- A Dormitory Evidence Camera video
- Related incident reports
- A Dormitory emergency log
- A Dormitory housing unit log
- Charlotte CI control room log
- Inmate request from Inmate Gabriel Walker, DC#194273