

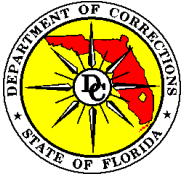
# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

### CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 14-15393

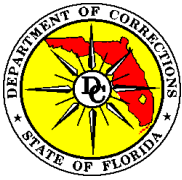


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**CASE SUMMARY REPORT**



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**Case Number:** 14-15393

**Inspector:** Inspector Ken Futch

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** December 1, 2014

**Complaint Against:** N/A

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

**Deceased:** Inmate Derrick Chase # 167729

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

**PREA Number:** N/A

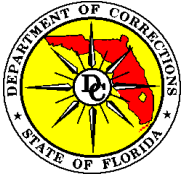
**Classification of Incident:** Suicide

**Confidential Medical Information Included:**  Yes  No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:**  Yes  No

**Equal Employment Opportunity 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.

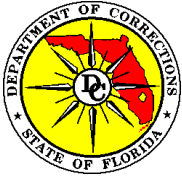
**II. METHODOLOGY**

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:**

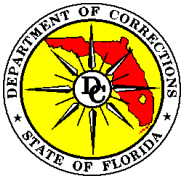
Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

**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.



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**V. PREDICATE**

On or about November 27, 2014, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General received notification Inmate Derrick Chase #167729 [REDACTED] in his cell (E4 224) at Graceville Correctional Facility (GCF). Inmate Chase was pronounced deceased [REDACTED]. On November 27, 2014, Inspector Ken Futch responded to GCF to render assistance to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

**VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

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

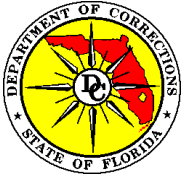
On November 27, 2014, at approximately 1:20 a.m., Inspector Ken Futch was notified of an unattended death of an inmate at Graceville Correctional Facility (GCF). The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) would be contacted to respond. While en route to the facility, contact was made with Officer in Charge (OIC) Captain Bobby Lee who confirmed cell E4-224 where the inmate died was secured with the deceased body inside. Upon arrival, contact was made with Investigator Chad Anderson who advised Inmate Derrick Chase #167729 was discovered hanging from the top bunk by a bed sheet in his two (2) man cell. Cellmate Cameron Lamb #N16019 discovered Inmate Chase at approximately 12:45 a.m. and notified security staff. Sergeant C. Epley and Officer R. Stapp [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] pronounced Inmate Chase deceased at 1:09 a.m. Inmate Chase remained in the cell with security staff posted at the door until the arrival of FDLE agents. FDLE Special Agents Troy Roper, Travis Lawson and Lee Adams arrived and responded to cell E4-224 after being briefed. FDLE Special Agents conducted related interviews during the response of FDLE Crime Scene Technicians. FDLE Crime Scene Technicians responded and processed the scene along with Investigator Whit Majors of the Medical Examiner's Office. Inmate Chase was removed from the cell at 7:20 a.m. and transported to the Medical Examiner's Office.

On March 18, 2015, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent Supervisor Troy Roper emailed the final FDLE report along with the autopsy report from the District 14 Medical Examiner's Office involving deceased Inmate Derrick Chase. In the final FDLE report the investigation was considered closed by suicide [REDACTED]. A review of the autopsy report for Inmate Chase, signed by Mark Shuman, M.D. (Associate Medical Examiner) listed the following:

[REDACTED]  
Manner of Death: suicide

*There are no known violations of Florida Administrative Code or Department of Corrections Procedures.*



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**VII. CHARGES**

- **Not Applicable**

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Ken Futch this investigation be termed as follows:

- **Exceptionally Cleared**