

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST**

Case # 15-604



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



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CASE SUMMARY REPORT



Case Number: 15-604

Inspector: Inspector Steven Donaldson

Date Assigned or Initiated: 01-15-2015

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Florida State Prison

Complainant: Inmate Michael Hoffman DC#428392

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death

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 January 9, 2015, at approximately 3:25 PM Inspector Donaldson was notified by the Florida State Prison administration in reference to a possible suicide of Inmate Michael Hoffman DC#428392. Inmate Hoffman was incarcerated in a single man cell. Upon arrival to Florida State Prison Inmate Hoffman while in the Bradford County arrived and Inmate Hoffman. pronounced inmate Hoffman deceased at 4:28 PM. Lead Senior Inspector Stacy Fish was apprised of the situation and he contacted FDLE. Sergeant Brandi Crawford was posted just outside the with a log documenting personnel entering and exiting the secured area. Correctional Officer C. Collins was posted outside Inmate Hoffman's cell with log documenting personnel entering and exiting the secure area. FDLE agents arrived at the prison and reviewed where Inmate Hoffman was housed in Special Agent Mike Brown was assigned the case and provided FDLE case# JA-37-0082. Special Agent Brown photographed the Inmate Hoffman's cell and deceased body. Inmate Hoffman had been incarcerated at Florida State Prison since October 9, 2014. Inmate Hoffman's release date was set for July 6, 2032. This incident was reported in MINS 596594 and assigned as criminal assist case# 15-604 to Inspector Donaldson.

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 January 14, 2015, the State of Florida District 8 Medical Examiner's office emailed a copy of inmate Michael Hoffman's preliminary autopsy findings to Inspector Donaldson. The report listed the probable cause of death as The report listed the manner of death as "suicide". The preliminary autopsy findings are attached to this report.

In the State of Florida District 8 Medical Examiner's office autopsy report ME15-0020 of Inmate Michael Hoffman listed the probable cause of death as The report listed the manner of death as "suicide".

On April 23, 2015, FDLE Agent Brown provided a copy of case# JA-37-0082. Agent Brown indicated he reviewed the and the medical examiners report. Agent Brown indicated due to the medical examiner findings no further investigative activity will occur. Agent Brown advised in his report that FDLE case is closed by his report attached to this report.

VII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Steven Donaldson that this case be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared



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No administrative issues were identified in this investigation.