

Florida Department Of Corrections
 Office of the Inspector General
 Report of Investigation
 Gene Hatcher, Inspector General



Inspector General Case #: 09-42613

Facility: Okeechobee Correctional Institution

Classification of Incident: [REDACTED]

Field Office/Region: Ft. Lauderdale/IV

Incident Date: 08/08/09

Time: 14:05

Inspector: Katouree D. Jackson

Date of Report: 10/13/09

Case Type: A

Check all that apply:

- Confidential Medical Information
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- Principal(s) Exhibits Attached
- 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 YES NO

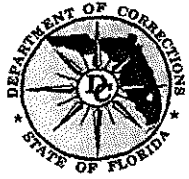
SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:

Inmate Frederick Furqharsen DC# 432314 [REDACTED] while in his assigned confinement cell housed alone.

SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:

There are no administrative violations related to this case. The medical examiner's autopsy report will be released to the Ft. Lauderdale Field Office upon release of the investigative report by the investigating agency.

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 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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 BUREAU OF
 STATE INVESTIGATIONS



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In his sworn, written statement of October 5, 2009, Correctional Officer Martin Garcia indicated the following:

On August 9, 2009, at approximately [REDACTED] he responded to a call in B-Dormitory cell B1118 which housed only Inmate Furqharsen. When he arrived at the cell, Inmate Furqharsen [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(Exhibit A2)

Inmate Furqharsen was [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
(Exhibit A3)

On August 9, 2009, Detective Fred Bradley of the Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene responded to [REDACTED] institution. His report indicated that the inmate had [REDACTED]. He also [REDACTED] indicating where the knot possibly was.

He responded to the institution; and when he assessed the cell there was a piece of a sheet with a knot in it on the floor. There was another piece of sheet tied in a hole of the top bunk; the top bunk was approximately fifty inches off the ground. The piece of sheet that was hanging down was approximately eighteen inches long (that portion was cut from the portion found on the floor. The sheet on the bottom bunk had tears in it consistent with the pieces of sheet found tied to the top bunk and on the floor.

[REDACTED]

Detective Bradley spoke with a staff member who was present when the decedent was found. He was told that the sheet was around the decedent's neck, his hands were to his side and his feet were extended out. He concluded that from [REDACTED] and the sheet portions, the information obtained was consistent with what was found.

He had the officers close the gate (cell door); once closed he tried to manually open it, but was unable to indicating that it was properly functioning.

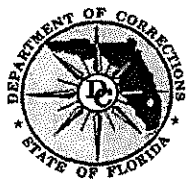
(Exhibit A4)

The day of the [REDACTED] there were no reported problems with the inmate.

At approximately 10:45am, lunch trays were served; there was no indication or documentation that Inmate Furqharsen did not eat his lunch.

Inmate Furqharsen was [REDACTED] on August 11, 2009.

The crime scene photographs taken by Okeechobee Sheriff's Office were requested and will be forwarded to the Ft. Lauderdale Field Office upon receipt.

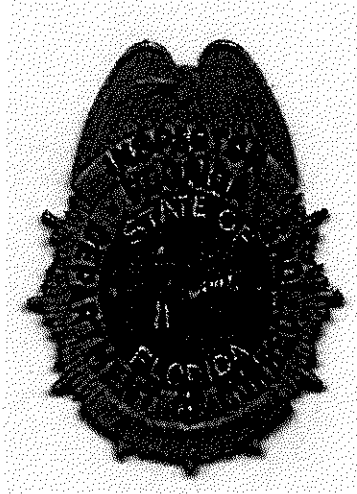


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"I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, under penalty of perjury, that, to the best of my personal knowledge, information, and belief, I have not knowingly or willfully deprived, or allowed another to deprive, the subject of the investigation of any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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gene Hatcher", written over a horizontal line.

Investigator's Signature

10/15/09

Date



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EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION

A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:

1. Affidavit by Sergeant Ellis
2. Affidavit by Officer Garcia
3. Dorm Logs
4. Report by Detective Bradley

B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:

None