

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 14-14643**



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



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Case Number: 14-14643

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Mark Warren

Date Assigned or Initiated: 11-12-2014

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Reception and Medical Center

Complainant: Sergeant Teresa Burgess

Outside Agency Case #: JA-37-0045

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death (*Natural*)

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

Officer Teresa Burgess reported Inmate Roger Taylor #565562, was pronounced deceased due to [REDACTED] causes by [REDACTED] Clifford Adam on November 09, 2014 at 4:32 a.m., while [REDACTED]. MINS (*Management Information Notes System*) #586075 was entered on November 10, 2014 and assigned to Inspector Mark Pentolino as an agency assist on November 12, 2014. This investigation was reassigned to Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley on March 31, 2015.

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:

This case is an investigative assist with FDLE (*Florida Department of Law Enforcement*), being the lead investigative agency.

On November 09, 2014, Inspector Mark Pentolino responded to Reception and Medical Center Hospital in Lake Butler, Florida, to assist FDLE Special Agent Supervisor Gary Nehrbass in the death of Inmate Roger Taylor #565562. An incident report submitted by Sergeant Teresa Burgess indicated Doctor Clifford Adam pronounced Inmate Taylor deceased due to [REDACTED]. This investigation was reassigned to Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley on March 31, 2015.

A review of Inmate Roger Taylor's autopsy report submitted by Doctor Martha Burt of the Gainesville Medical Examiner's Office revealed the cause of death [REDACTED]. The manner of death is classified as Natural. The examination revealed no signs of foul play.

In a report submitted by Special Agent Mark Warren on March 25, 2015, all investigative activity is concluded. SA Warren closed FDLE Case #JA-37-0045 indicating the manner of death was natural. SA Warren's report was forwarded to and approved by FDLE Supervisor Matthew Walsh.

VII. CHARGES

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector E. J. Whatley the death of Inmate Taylor, be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared
2. Investigative Assist Closed



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Inspector Whatley reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE and no administrative issues were identified.