

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 18-07243**



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



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Case Number: 18-07243

OIG Inspector: Inspector Janine Knight

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Travis Lawson

Date Assigned or Initiated: April 19, 2018

Complaint Against: Inmate Gerald Folker #C00808

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Graceville Work Camp

Complainant: Sergeant Michael Lunsford

Outside Agency Case #: PE-37-0132

Use of Force Number: NA

PREA Number: NA

Classification of Incident: In-Custody Inmate Death

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: NA



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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 or about April 19, 2018, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General received notification alleging Inmate Gerald Folker #C00808 was found in his bed [REDACTED] at Graceville Work Camp. [REDACTED] and Inmate [REDACTED] [REDACTED] where he was later pronounced deceased on April 20, 2018, at approximately 2:02 p.m. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) notification was made, and Inspector Janine Knight responded to Graceville Work Camp on April 19, 2018, to provide investigative assistance to FDLE. FDLE assigned case number is PE-37-0132.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

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

On April 20, 2018, FDLE Special Agent Travis Lawson assessed the body of Inmate Folker, with no foul play noted. Requested documents and fixed wing video were provided to FDLE Special Agent Travis Lawson. Substances found during a search of Inmate Folker's bedding area and the area [REDACTED] were provided to the medical examiner's office.

On April 20, 2018, the Medical Examiner's Office, Mr. Whit Majors, took possession of Inmate Folker's body and a copy of Inmate Folker's [REDACTED]

On September 5, 2018, the autopsy report for Inmate Folker was forwarded to Inspector Knight, which indicated on April 23, 2018, an autopsy was conducted on Inmate Folker by District Fourteen Medical Examiner, Jay. M. Radtke M.D. and he concluded the cause of death [REDACTED] and the manner of death was Accidental.

On September 5, 2018, Inspector Knight received the investigative reports from FDLE, which contained the information pertaining to the death of Inmate Folker. Inspector Knight reviewed reports associated with FDLE Case: PE-37-0132 and noted the following: Special Agent Lawson noted findings documented in the medical examiner's report investigation which noted the determination of the death of Inmate Folker as Accidental due [REDACTED] No further investigative activity was anticipated, and FDLE's investigation was closed.

Inspector Knight reviewed the final report of investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.

No further actions are warranted at this time by the Office of the Inspector General.

VII. CHARGES

- **NA- In-Custody Inmate Death ruled accidental by medical examiner's office.**

VIII. CONCLUSION



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- **Exceptionally Cleared**