



Florida Department of Corrections  
 Office of the Inspector General  
 Report of Investigation  
 Jeffery T. Beasley, Inspector General



**Inspector General Case #:** 12-3-3690

**Facility:** Central Florida Reception Center

**Classification of Incident:** 15B Inmate Death/ [REDACTED]

**Field Office/Region:** Region 3-West

**Incident Date:** 07/14/12

**Time:** 12:57PM

**Inspector:** Yolanda Brown

**Date of Report:** 10/03/12

**Case Type:** C

- Case of Special Interest
- Confidential [REDACTED]
- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Number (if applicable)
- 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

**SUMMARY OF ALLEGATIONS:**

On July 14, 2012, at approximately 12:55pm, Inmate Jerrald Villani was discovered [REDACTED] in his cell, hanging by a sheet tied around his neck. He was pronounced dead by [REDACTED] on the same date, at 1:42pm. This was reported via MINS on July 14, 2012, and assigned as an investigation on July 16, 2012.

**SUMMARY OF DISPOSITION/JUSTIFICATION FOR DOWNGRADE/EXONERATION:**

Medical Examiner Joshua D. Stephany, MD indicated that Inmate Jerrald Villani died of [REDACTED]. This manner of death is classified as a suicide.

Based on the investigative findings, coupled with the results of the autopsy, there was no evidence of foul play and therefore this investigation is closed and categorized as Exceptionally Cleared.

RECEIVED  
 DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
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 BUREAU OF  
 STATE INVESTIGATIONS



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	Name	Title / DC #	D.O.B.	Employee ID # or Non-Employee Contact Information
<b>Complainant:</b>	Long, Laurie	CO Captain	04/02/19██	12710
<b>Victim:</b>	Villani, Jerrald	Inmate/ D39300	04/22/1969	
<b>Witness(es):</b>	Diaz, Luz	Correctional Officer	03/30/19██	39575
	Goossen, Peter	CO Sergeant	06/05/19██	30526
	Roark, Chris	CO Sergeant	07/31/19██	18013
	Martinez, Alexis	Correctional Officer	11/27/19██	65345
	Stokes, Jestine	CO Sergeant	03/03/19██	6046
	Smith, Nathan	Correctional Officer	07/31/19██	20016
	██████████	██████████	██████████	
	██████████	██████████	██████████	
	Dennis, David	Inmate/ K72408	06/18/1973	
	Williams, George	Inmate/ 442144	10/22/1953	
	Roberts, Ricky	Inmate/ R35722	03/17/1985	
	Larry, Damon	Inmate/ 116817	07/05/1970	
	Brush, Rodney	Inmate/ 590995	07/08/1969	
	Federhofer, Anthony	Inmate/ D41617	05/21/1969	
	Callaway, Dwayne	Inmate/ T77697	01/08/1989	
	Bottom, Charles	Inmate/ U07626	07/08/1979	
	Cooter, Steven	Inmate/ R29734	04/30/1957	
	Simmons, Bennie	Inmate/ U29566	08/09/1986	
	Baker, Earl	Inmate/ G06129	06/30/1981	
	Neal, Leslie	Inmate/ 715270	09/30/1971	
<b>Subject(s):</b>	N/A			

Arrest:  Employee  Inmate  Other

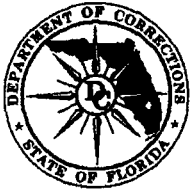
Addendum Pending

Charges:

Felony  Misdemeanor Date of Arrest:

Date Reported:

Final Court Action(s):



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Other Agency Case Number:

**FINDINGS:**

On July 14, 2012, at approximately 2:30pm, I was advised by On-Call Supervisor, Marilyn Henderson to report to Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) for a [REDACTED] investigation regarding Inmate Jerrald Villani, housed in D-Dormitory. Villani was housed alone during the time of the incident.

In her Incident Report, and subsequent sworn digitally recorded statement, Correctional Officer Luz Diaz stated:

At [REDACTED] during the first count in D-Dormitory, Inmate Villani was sitting on his bunk. Officer Nathan Smith counted first and she counted second.

At about 12:39pm, Control Room notified the dorm and advised them to conduct an informal recount. At 12:40pm, she began to count wing 1, then 2, and then wing 4. She never made it to wing 3 to count, due to discovering Villani hanging in wing 4. She was on the wing alone, while Smith was in the officer's station opening doors and observing her count on each wing.

As she approached Villani's cell, she observed a sheet attached to the top bunk and Villani was hanging face down, and his body was parallel to the lower bunk. Villani's head position was pointed towards the cell doorway. Also, Villani's face and body was facing downward about 6 inches from the floor. She [REDACTED]

She signaled for Smith to open the door of the cell and she immediately radioed for assistance. She entered the cell and Villani appeared to be [REDACTED]. She attempted to remove the sheet from around Villani's neck but was unable to. She yelled into the quad for the [REDACTED] to respond to the cell. Three [REDACTED] responded and assisted her in removing the sheet from around Villani's neck and placed him on the floor. At this time, staff and [REDACTED]

There was no other inmate assigned to the cell with Villani. Villani's roommate, Inmate David Dennis EOS'd (End of Sentence) before the noon count began.

The [REDACTED] names were Ricky Roberts, Damon Larry and she could not recall the other inmate's name. **(Exhibits A-1& B-1)**

*The other [REDACTED] that responded was Inmate George Williams.*

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Correctional Officer Nathan Smith stated:

He was assigned to D-Dormitory and assisted in counting. He remembered during the first count, Inmate Villani was sitting up on his bunk with his hands on his knees and facing towards the wall.



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During the second count, he was in the officer's station, when Officer Diaz discovered Villani hanging. He was observing Diaz count and opening the entry/exit doors for her.

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Inmate Ricky Roberts stated:

During the second count, he was cleaning in the dayroom in wing 4, when he heard Officer Diaz yell from upstairs, "Oh my God" and then she immediately got on the radio. He and the other [REDACTED] asked Diaz was everything ok, but she never responded. He observed Diaz enter into the cell. She then came to the doorway and yelled for them ([REDACTED]) to respond to the cell.

He is legally blind and was the last inmate to enter the cell. At first, he thought the inmate was [REDACTED] or something but as he got closer, he observed the sheet around the inmate's neck. He [REDACTED] but he remembered Diaz telling them to be careful and [REDACTED]. The other inmates held the inmate up, while he removed the sheet from around the inmate's neck. (Exhibit B-1)

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Inmate George Williams stated:

He heard Officer Diaz scream and then she immediately got on the radio. He asked Diaz, if she needed help but she did not respond at first. Diaz got on the radio a second time and he asked her again, if she needed help. Diaz then waved her hands for him and the other inmates to respond.

When he entered the room, he saw the inmate hanging with a sheet around his neck, approximately 5 inches from the floor facing down. He immediately attempted to lift the inmate but was unable to because the inmate body weight was too heavy. The other two inmates entered the cell and assisted with lifting the inmate up. They were able to get the sheet from around the inmate's neck.

[REDACTED] under where the inmate's head and face was located. (Exhibit B-1)

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Inmate Damon Larry stated:

After the first count, he heard a "thump" noise come from the area of the inmate's cell. It sounded like someone had jump off their bunk. He was in the dayroom sweeping at the time.

During the second count, Officer Diaz asked them ([REDACTED]) to respond to the cell. When he arrived at the cell, he observed the inmate hanging from the top bunk. He saw [REDACTED] next to the toilet and [REDACTED]. He and the other inmate lifted the inmate, so the sheet could be removed from around the inmate's neck. The inmate's face and body was about a foot from the floor.

(Exhibit B-1)

In his Incident Report, and subsequent sworn digitally recorded statement, Sergeant Peter Goosen stated:



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He heard Officer Diaz call for [REDACTED] in D-Dormitory, "an inmate in wing 4 had hung himself." As he entered D-Dormitory, he immediately retrieved the ligature cutters and a set of hand restraints from the officer's station. He then entered wing 4, cell 208 and observed Inmate Villani lying face down on the floor. He was unsure of possible threat to staff welfare, so he immediately placed wrist restraints on Villani and [REDACTED]. After [REDACTED] he removed his hand restraints. At this time, [REDACTED] entered the cell. He then assisted the [REDACTED].

(Exhibits A-2 & B-1)

In his Incident Report, and subsequent sworn digitally recorded statement, Sergeant Chris Roark stated:

He responded to a call for assistance in D-Dormitory, wing 4, cell 208. As he entered the cell, he observed Inmate Villani lying face down on the floor. He observed Sergeant Goosen placed hand restraints on the inmate for officer's safety. Sergeant Goosen began [REDACTED]. After finding minimal risk for staff injury, the handcuffs were removed from Villani. [REDACTED] He exited the cell to allow for more space so that [REDACTED] to Villani.

(Exhibit A-3 & B-1)

In his Incident Report and subsequent sworn digitally recorded statement, Correctional Officer Alexis Martinez stated:

He responded to a call for assistance in D-Dormitory, wing 4, cell 208. As he entered the cell, he observed Villani lying face down on the floor. He observed Sergeant Goosen place hand restraints on Villani, as he and Sergeant Roark [REDACTED]. After assessing the risk to staff, Villani's restraints were removed and he assisted Sergeant Goosen and [REDACTED].

(Exhibit A-4 & B-1)

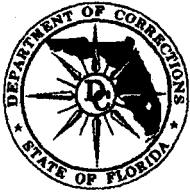
In his Incident Report and subsequent sworn digitally recorded statement, Sergeant Jistine Stokes stated:

She responded to a call for assistance in D-Dormitory, wing 4, cell 208. She observed Villani lying face down on the floor. She assisted with [REDACTED]. She immediately notified the Control Room via radio and waited for further instructions.

(Exhibit A-5 & B-1)

In their Incident Reports and sworn affidavits, [REDACTED] stated:

They responded to D-Dormitory, cell 208, in reference to an inmate hanging. Inmate Villani was found in his cell [REDACTED]. They instructed security staff to immediately [REDACTED]. They began [REDACTED] on Villani [REDACTED] at the scene. Villani's [REDACTED].



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[REDACTED] at 1:19pm. [REDACTED] pronounced Villani dead at 1:42pm. (Exhibit A-6 & A-7)

Inmates housed in wing 4, near Villani's cell were interviewed regarding this incident.

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Inmate Anthony Federhofer stated:

He did not hear anything unusual prior to hearing the officer scream for assistance. He spoke with Villani earlier that day and asked him how he was doing. Villani replied he was doing ok. Villani [REDACTED] He was familiar with Villani because they were in Transfer and Receiving the day before together. (Exhibit B-1)

In their sworn digitally recorded statements, Inmates Rodney Brush, Dwayne Callaway, Charles Bottom, Steven Cooter, Bennie Simmons, and Earl Baker stated:

They did not hear or observe anything regarding Inmate Villani. They only heard Officer Diaz scream for assistance over the radio, so they knew something had happened. (Exhibit B-1)

In his sworn digitally recorded statement, Ex-inmate David Dennis stated:

On Friday, July 13, 2012, at 5:00pm, when he went to his cell Villani was present. Villani introduce himself to him. Villani had made his bed and was sitting on his bunk reading a book.

Later, that evening Villani told him that he was sentenced to 6 years in prison for manufacturing methamphetamine and he burned down the "meth" house and received an additional arson charge. Villani expressed he was [REDACTED] and it was "the devil." He told Villani he was leaving in the morning. Villani then asked him could he have his new sheets. He told him, yes.

The next morning, they went to breakfast and came back. An officer told him to pack his property, so they changed out the sheets then. He "hung out" in the dayroom area. He went to the cell several times and Villani was lying in his bunk sleep. At 11:30am, the dorm was released for the noon meal. He did not go and stayed in the dorm. Villani went to lunch. At about 11:50am, he left the dorm enroute to the front gate to be release (EOS), and met Villani coming from food service on the sidewalk. They gave each other "dap" and said goodbye to each other.

[REDACTED] (Exhibit B-1)

I conducted a [REDACTED] approximately 4:57pm, on July 14, 2012, in cell 208, D-Dormitory at CFRC. Villani had [REDACTED]. There was [REDACTED]. Villani had on his state uniform pants and his t-shirt and the shirt had [REDACTED].



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been [REDACTED]

Inmate Villani's cell and property were searched. The sheet was affixed to the top bunk bed frame holes and tied into a knot. There was no correspondence found in Villani's cell [REDACTED]. There was a letter Villani wrote to his mother, which stated:

"Dear Mom, I just got transferred to Central Florida Reception Center in Orlando. Today is my first day here. They started us out at 2:30am and it's been a memorable day since. They finally got done moving us from one line to another, boot camp style about 4:00pm. There are no books and one TV at select times, but they watch stuff like Maury and Jerry Springer, so far I don't watch it. It will get better when I get to my permanent camp and can get a job and a radio. Did I mention they don't pay you to work here? The only source of income is what gets sent in. The room is a sweat box-at least 100 degrees with no circulation when they shut us in. It's so hot, it's hard to breathe! I sure picked the wrong State to get in trouble in."

"I've heard rumor that FL passed a 50% law allowing certain inmates to file for early release at the halfway point. I don't know yet if I qualify, but it's hard not to get my hopes up. I'll find out in the weeks to come."

(Exhibit A-8)

Photographs were taken of the cell and Inmate Villani's body.

(Exhibit A-9)

On July 13, 2012, Inmate Villani was received from Lake County for new charges of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree arson and manufacture of methamphetamine with a 6 year sentence.

There was no video coverage in D-Dormitory. D-Dormitory is an open population-transit dorm.

Inmate Villani had no phone activity on the Securus Phone System.

Inmate Villani's [REDACTED] were obtained and will be made a part of this investigative file.

(Exhibit A10)

On July 15, 2012, an autopsy was performed on Inmate Villani by Joshua D. Stephany, MD, AME of District 9 Medical Examiner's Office. Doctor Stephany indicated that Villani died [REDACTED]. The manner of death is classified as a suicide.

This exhibit represents the sheet (ligature) which was placed in evidence at CFRC-Inspector General's Office evidence locker.

(Exhibit B-2)

On July 16, 2012, the Institution received a DC1303, Request for Administrative Remedy or Appeal from Inmate Leslie Neal, who indicated that he was housed at Lake County Jail with Inmate Villani and was also



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transported to prison with him on July 13, 2012. Neal indicated that staff at CFRC “failed Villani drastically” and [REDACTED] could have been avoided. (Exhibit A11)

In his sworn affidavit, Inmate Leslie Neal stated:

Inmate Villani and he were transported from Lake County Jail to prison together on July 13, 2012. While they were riding, they talked and Villani [REDACTED] He told Villani that was not the thing to do. Villani said he had [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When they arrived at CFRC Transferring and Receiving, Villani was seen by [REDACTED] He (Villani) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It was evident that Villani [REDACTED] [REDACTED] When Villani came out of the office, he (Villani) said, “These people don’t give a fuck.” Villani indicated that he would take care of it first chance he got. He did not hear Villani report [REDACTED] however, he (Villani) told him that he did. (Exhibit A12)

There is no evidence to support Inmate Neal’s allegation of staff misconduct. There is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (Exhibit A-9).

[REDACTED]

On August 16, 2012, I received the autopsy report and the manner of death is classified as [REDACTED] (Exhibit A13)

No criminal or administrative concerns were brought up or observed during this investigation.





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*Yolanda Brown*

10/03/12

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Senior Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

*Tommy Gaudin*

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Regional Supervisor

/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead Inspector

10/15/12

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Lead Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Inspector General /  
 Chief of Investigations

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Deputy Inspector General  
 Chief of Special Operations

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspector General

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date



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**EXHIBIT/ATTACHMENTS SECTION**

**A. EXHIBIT(s) - attached:**

1. Incident Report of Officer Diaz
2. Incident Report of Sergeant Peter Goosen
3. Incident Report of Sergeant Chris Roark
4. Incident Report of Officer Martinez
5. Incident Report of Sergeant Stokes
6. Incident Reports of [REDACTED]
7. Sworn Affidavits of [REDACTED]
8. Letter written by Inmate Villani
9. Photographs of Inmate Villani's body
10. [REDACTED]
11. DC1-303, Request for Administrative Remedy or Appeal of Inmate Leslie Neal
12. Sworn Affidavit of Inmate Leslie Neal
13. Autopsy Report of Inmate Villani

**B. EXHIBIT(s) - not attached:**

1. CD containing digitally recorded statements of the following:
  - Correctional Officer Luz
  - Sergeant Peter Goossen
  - Sergeant Chris Roark
  - Correctional Officer Alexis Martinez
  - Sergeant Jistine Stokes
  - Correctional Officer Nathan Smith
  - Inmate David Dennis
  - Inmate George Williams
  - Inmate Ricky Roberts
  - Inmate Damon Larry
  - Inmate Rodney Brush
  - Inmate Anthony Federhofer
  - Inmate Dwayne Callaway
  - Inmate Charles Bottom
  - Inmate Steven Cooter
  - Inmate Bennie Simmons
  - Inmate Earl Baker
2. Sheet (Ligature)