

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 15-3018**



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



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Case Number: 15-3018

OIG Inspector: Inspector Darryl Cherry

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Michael Devaney

Date Assigned or Initiated: 02-25-2015

Complaint Against: Unattended Death- Suicide

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Franklin Correctional Institution

Complainant: Captain David Jacobs

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0014

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Suicide

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

On February 25, 2015, at approximately 2:41 AM, at Franklin Correctional Institution, (FCI) Sergeant Jessica Deal was alerted to Inmate Ronald Crain, DC# I13652 [REDACTED] Sergeant Deal activated the Incident Command System requesting [REDACTED] response. She then removed the blanket from Inmate Crain and observed a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] staff arrived at approximately 2:44 AM. Inmate Crain was taken to the [REDACTED] of FCI. [REDACTED] personnel pronounced Inmate Crain dead at 3:07 AM.

This information was reported to the Office of Inspector General on February 25, 2015, via EAC notification to the on-call supervisor. On-call Inspector Darryl Cherry was activated to respond to FCI to assist FDLE's response to the inmate death (TL-37-0014) and assigned an Investigative Assist on the same date.

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 February 25, 2015, FDLE Special Agents Michael Devaney and Albert Willis responded to FCI along with FDLE Crime Scene Unit. FDLE is the lead investigating agency for this case. SA Devaney is the Lead Case Agent for their investigation in FDLE case number TL-37-0014.

- At 0530, Inspector Cherry met SA Willis at the control room of FCI and proceeded to the FCI [REDACTED] where Inmate Crain's body was secured in an exam room. At approximately 0545 SA Michael Devaney arrived at the [REDACTED] Upon the arrival of FDLE Crime Scene Unit, an examination of Inmate Crain's body revealed [REDACTED]
- An examination of Inmate Crain's assigned bunk in Side 2 of G-Dormitory (G2120L open bay dorm) revealed the broken handle of a shaving razor. Security Staff reported to FDLE SA Devaney and Willis, a razor blade was discovered in the area of Inmate Crain which was collected and preserved for collection by FDLE Crime Scene.
- Inmate Crain's personal property had been secured within the Officer's Station of G-Dormitory. An examination of this property revealed an un-mailed, handwritten letter addressed to Amy Crain, Perry, FL from Inmate Crain, in which he expressed concern over his approaching release date and the direness and loneliness of the life he would have on the outside.

SA Devaney advised his contact to the Medical Examiner's Office determined an autopsy was scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015, at 0900 (*Tallahassee Memorial Hospital*).



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On February 26, 2015, Dr. Lisa Flannagan of the District 2 Medical Examiner's Office conducted an autopsy of Inmate Crain. Inspector Cherry attended the autopsy along with SA Devaney. Dr. Flannagan's preliminary finding of the manner of death was suicide caused [REDACTED]. A complete autopsy report will be provided to FDLE upon completion.

FDLE SA Michael Devaney's completed case file was received and reviewed. The case file contained 14 Investigative Reports and no "summary" per se. Each of the IRs were reviewed and found no administrative issues identified. The conclusion of the collective reports revealed Dr. Lisa Flannagan (*Tallahassee Medical Examiner's Office*) determined Inmate Ronald Crain's death to be suicide, caused [REDACTED].

A copy of the FDLE case file will be included as an external exhibit along with the closed case file for this Investigative Assist case.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

None Identified.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Michael Devaney, the disposition of this investigation, be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared

Inspector Cherry reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified. There will be no subsequent administrative investigation.