

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 15-4945**



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



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**Case Number:** 15-4945

**OIG Inspector:** Michael D. McCord

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Kristen Cortes

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** March 31, 2015

**Complaint Against:** N/A

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Graceville Correctional Facility

**Complainant:** Correctional Officer Captain Scotty Langford

**Outside Agency Case #:** PE-37-0019

**Use of Force Number:** N/A

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Death Investigation

**Confidential Medical Information Included:** \_\_\_ Yes    X No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:** \_\_\_ Yes    X 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 or about March 31, 2015, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General received notification that Inmate Andrew Boaz, DC #J14923 had been discovered [REDACTED] in his assigned cell, C2-222U, at Graceville Correctional Facility on March 31, 2015. Inmate Boaz was pronounced dead by [REDACTED]. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified. The investigation was turned over to the FDLE on March 31, 2015, in accordance with the memorandum of understanding. The primary FDLE Case Agent is Kristen Cortes and the FDLE Case number is PE-37-0019. The Office of the Inspector General assigned an investigative assist investigation to Senior Inspector Michael McCord on March 31, 2015.

**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 March 31, 2015, at 4:35 AM, Senior Inspector Michael McCord received notification of an inmate death at Graceville Correctional Facility (GCF) in Graceville, Florida. Senior Inspector McCord made contact with GCF Correctional Officer Captain Scotty Langford who indicated Correctional Officer Thomas Hartley had found Inmate Andrew Boaz [REDACTED] in Cell C2-222U during a security check at 3:07 AM. According to Captain Langford, Inmate Boaz had been housed in a two (2)-man general population cell with Inmate Joseph Savicki. Inmate Savicki told Captain Langford that Inmate Boaz had ingested "K2 Spice" (*synthetic marijuana*) on March 30, 2015, prior to lying down for the night. Inmate Savicki also indicated Inmate Boaz had K2 Spice in his personal property.

Inspector Supervisor Yolanda Brown contacted the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Emergency Operations Center and advised them of the incident.

At 4:54 AM, Senior Inspector McCord received a call from FDLE Supervising Agent in Charge (SAC) Troy Roper stating he and FDLE Special Agents Travis Lawson and Kristen Cortes would be responding to GCF.

Senior Inspector McCord arrived at GCF at 7:20 AM, and met with GCF Investigator Chad Anderson. Senior Inspector McCord and Investigator Anderson reviewed the fixed wing video recording for [REDACTED] dormitory and noticed Inmates Boaz and Savicki had entered Cell C2-222 on March 30, 2015, on or around 9:00 PM. No other individuals were seen entering Cell C2-222 prior to Officer Hartley discovering Inmate Boaz [REDACTED].

SAC Roper and Special Agent Lawson arrived at GCF at 7:50 AM. SAC Roper and Special Agent Lawson conducted a search of Inmate Boaz's personal property and located a small amount of what appeared to be a brown leafy substance and a partially smoked rolled cigarette.



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Medical Examiner Investigator Andrew Winkler arrived at GCF at 8:20 AM, and inspected and photographed the body of Inmate Boaz. [REDACTED] of Inmate Boaz.

SAC Roper and Special Agents Lawson and Cortes conducted interviews with correctional staff and inmates in adjacent cells.

The body of Inmate Boaz was transported to Circuit 14 Medical Examiner's Office by Brown's Funeral Home.

On January 11, 2016, the Office of Inspector General received the final autopsy report (2015- LA-0130) for Inmate Boaz dated July 6, 2015, from FDLE Special Agent Cortes.

**Cause of Death:** [REDACTED]

**Manner: Accident**

According to Special Agent Cortes, there is no FDLE case summary report, because of the Medical Examiner's ruling.

A review of administrative investigation Case #15-0500 conducted by Investigator Anderson with the Office of Professional Responsibility for the GEO Group, Inc. found Sergeant Randall Moore violated GEO policy 3.2.2, Standards of Employee Conduct, and the Employee Handbook, by making false entries in the C-Dorm Control Log indicating two security checks were conducted during the death of an inmate. The allegation was sustained.

**VII. CHARGES**

- There were no charges. Dr. Jay Radtke ruled Inmate Andrew Boaz's death was a result of an accident.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Michael D. McCord the case be termed as follows:

- **Closed**

Inspector McCord reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were identified. The administrative issues identified were assigned to GEO Investigator Chad Anderson for administrative investigation in GEO case # 15-0500.