

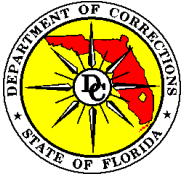
Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 14-4072

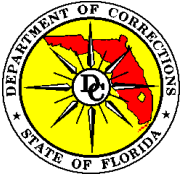


FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CASE SUMMARY REPORT



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CASE SUMMARY REPORT



Case Number: 14-4072

Inspector: Inspector Aubrey Land

Date Assigned or Initiated: 04-02-2014

Complaint Against: Officer Donelle Reed

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

Complainant: N/A

Use of Force Number: 14-3913

PREA Number:

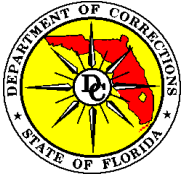
Classification of Incident: (Death Investigation)

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Equal Employment Opportunity Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number:



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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.

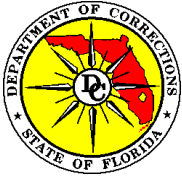
II. METHODOLOGY

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:

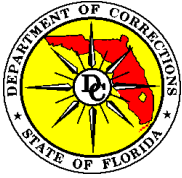
Refers to a disposition of a criminal case for which probable cause exists that an identified subject committed the offense and one for which an arrest or formal prosecution has been initiated.

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.



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V. PREDICATE

On April 02, 2014, security staff at Suwannee Correctional Institution (SWCI) reported the death of Inmate Shawn Gooden, DC# P10840. Following the notification of the death, Inspectors with the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and agents with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) responded and investigated the death.

During the investigation, the following was learned; on March 29, 2014, Inmate Gooden [REDACTED] within the secure housing unit of H-dormitory. [REDACTED], Inmate Gooden lunged toward Officer Donelle Reed and attempted to head butt him. Officer Reed redirected Inmate Gooden away from him and downward toward the floor, where Inmate Gooden struck his head on [REDACTED]. Security and [REDACTED] reported Inmate Gooden [REDACTED].

Following the use of force (UOF), Inmate Gooden [REDACTED] was summoned to SWCI and transported Inmate Gooden to [REDACTED] and Inmate Gooden was returned to SWCI where he was placed [REDACTED] and monitored leading up to the time of his death.

On April 04, 2014, Senior Inspector A.P. Land attended the autopsy of Inmate Gooden where the cause of death was ruled to be caused [REDACTED]. According to Dr. Flannigan with the Medical Examiner's Office (ME), [REDACTED]. Additionally, there was no obvious evidence to suggest or support Inmate Gooden [REDACTED] prior to his death.

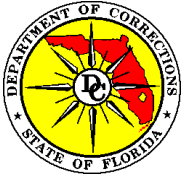
VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

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:

The investigation into the death of Inmate Shawn Gooden has been completed by FDLE and presented to the State Attorney of the Third Judicial Circuit. In a letter from State Attorney Jeffery Siegmeister dated November 24, 2014, the state attorney finds no criminal wrongdoing by correctional staff.

SA Siegmeister notes the use of force involving Inmate Gooden and Officer Reed [REDACTED] which triggered the chain of events which ultimately caused Inmate Gooden's death. The SA report further documents Officer Reed immediately reported the incident and fully cooperated in the investigation by FDLE.

In the SA review of the evidence, it was noted that ME Flannigan documented [REDACTED] of Inmate Gooden's neck. ME Flannigan further noted Inmate Gooden suffered from [REDACTED].



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Therefore inordinate force was not required [REDACTED]

SA Siegmeister further noted there is no evidence that the use of force by Officer Reed was unjustified or excessive. Furthermore, there is no evidence of criminal conduct on the part of any other individual involved and the Office of the State Attorney will not take any further action in this case.

SA Siegmeister's letter dated November 24, 2014, is attached to this report for further review.

Subsequent to the closure of this case, it was discovered Sergeant Robert Norris, who was a witness to this incident, had not been interviewed to date. Resident Agent-In-Charge (RAC) Jim Flournoy was made aware and requested Special Agent (SA) Lawrence Perez conduct the interview.

SA Perez interviewed Sergeant Norris who provided a statement of the events that occurred concerning the use of force on Inmate Gooden. Sergeant Norris' testimony is summarized in the attached report (LV-37-009/ IR-17).

Sergeant Norris provided no additional evidence that would change FDLE's initial findings nor the Office of the State Attorney initial determination of not filing charges in this case.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

The investigation into the death of Inmate Shawn Gooden has been completed by FDLE and presented to the State Attorney of the Third Judicial Circuit. In a letter from State Attorney Jeffery Siegmeister dated November 24, 2014, the state attorney finds no criminal wrongdoing by correctional staff.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector Aubrey Land the investigation be closed as;

1. (Unfounded)