

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 16-10505**



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



Table of Contents

I. AUTHORITY	4
II. METHODOLOGY.....	4
III. ANALYSIS.....	4
IV. DEFINITIONS	5
V. PREDICATE	6
VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS.....	6
VII. CHARGES.....	7
VIII. CONCLUSION.....	7



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



Case Number: 16-10505

OIG Inspector: Inspector LaQuietta Thompson

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Ed Principe

Date Assigned or Initiated: 11-22-2016

Complaint Against: N/A

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

Complainant: State of Florida

Outside Agency Case #: MI-37-0038

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death - Suicide

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



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



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.



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



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.



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



V. PREDICATE

On May 29, 2016, the Office of the Inspector General received a complaint via the Management Information Notification System (MINS) from Dade Correctional Institution (DCI). According to MINS# 701750, Officer Pedro Carvajal-Ochoa was conducting a security check of Foxtrot wing two (Disciplinary Confinement) when he discovered Inmate Scott Perkins DC# 922222, in cell F2122, with one end of a sheet tied around his neck and the other end tied to the handle of the window. [REDACTED] Inmate Scott Perkins DC# 922222 was pronounced deceased at Dade Correctional Institution at approximately 1620 hours. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified and is lead investigating agency.

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:

In an Incident Report of May 29, 2016, Sergeant Pedro Carvajal-Ochoa reports that on this date, at approximately 3:50pm, he entered wing two of Foxtrot Dormitory to escort Ms. Diaz. As he announced to the wing that there were visitors, he noticed the window in cell 2122 was covered with state issued blues. He approached and tapped on the glass to see if Inmate Scott Perkins DC# 922222 was ok, but he did not receive a response. He opened the flap of the cell door and observed Inmate Perkins [REDACTED]. He immediately alerted Sergeant Ronald Morris of his observations.

He was advised to rush to the officer's station to obtain the ligature cutter. Back in wing two, he along with Sergeant Morris and Officer Rodrigue Prudent awaited the order to breach the cell. At approximately 3:55pm, Officer Terrique Graham entered the wing to assist. Once Sergeant Morris received the orders to breach the cell, he and Officer Graham immediately cut the bed sheet from the knob on the window which Inmate Perkins [REDACTED]. Officer Graham [REDACTED]. He placed Inmate Perkins in hand restraints for security in accordance with policy. [REDACTED]

In an Incident Report, [REDACTED] reports that on May 29, 2016, at approximately 4:00pm, she responded [REDACTED] inmate in confinement. She observed Inmate Perkins in bed with officers [REDACTED]. Inmate Perkins was placed on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and they responded to DCI at approximately 4:16pm. [REDACTED] pronounced Inmate Perkins deceased at approximately 4:20pm.

Proper notifications were made in accordance with policy. Inspector Nelson Rios responded on behalf of the Office of Inspector General and responded. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent Ed Principe responded and assumed duties as the lead investigator (FDLE Case# MI-37-0038).



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



On December 15, 2016, this writer obtained the investigative report (MI-37-0038) from FDLE. MI-37-0038 was reviewed and is attached in its entirety. Special Agent Principe reports Medical Examiner Dr. Fintan Garavan did not find anything unusual during his autopsy on May 31, 2016.

On September 6, 2018, this writer obtained the Autopsy Protocol Report from Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department. Dr. Fintan Garavan, Associate Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death due [REDACTED] the manner as suicide. Medical Examiner documents attached for review.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. No Violation

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Ed Principe the death investigation be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared (Closed)

Inspector Thompson reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.