

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 15-16724**



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



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Case Number: 15-16724

OIG Inspector: Inspector Lee Manning

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Susie Koteen
 Special Agent Keesha Nauss
 Special Agent George Dandelake

Date Assigned or Initiated: 07-31-2015

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Reception and Medical Center
 [REDACTED]

Complainant: N/A

Outside Agency Case #: OR-37-0029

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Unattended Inmate Death

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 July 29, 2015, this writer was dispatched to [REDACTED] in Jacksonville Florida regarding the unattended death of Inmate Angel Estrada, DC# B00852. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement ("FDLE") was notified, and initiated a criminal investigation in FDLE case # OR-37-0029. On July 31, 2015, Inspector Lee Manning ("Inspector Manning") was assigned investigative assist # 15-16724 to assist FDLE in their investigation.

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 July 29, 2015, I was dispatched to [REDACTED] in Jacksonville Florida regarding the unattended death of Inmate Angel Estrada, DC# B00852. Contact was made with F.D.L.E. Special Agent in Charge, Matt Walsh who advised that Special Agents, Keesha Nauss and George Dandelake were en route and would be taking lead in the death of Inmate Estrada per MOU procedures.

Upon arrival, I was provided a copy of the housing unit logs and a notification of death on Inmate Estrada. Prior to arrival, I was provided with eight (8) digital photographs and a rough draft Incident Report regarding the transport of Inmate Estrada to [REDACTED] via departmental email. The notification of death documented that Inmate Estrada was pronounced deceased by [REDACTED] Doug Palmer at 7:20 AM on July 29, 2015 due [REDACTED]

Officer Daniel Voyles was observed posted just outside of room 3024 with a log documenting personnel entering and exiting the secured area. From outside the room I observed Inmate Estrada's body on a [REDACTED] bed and no other patients or persons were in the room. [REDACTED] were observed present on torso of Inmate Estrada and an [REDACTED] was present on the left side of the bed indicating the existence of [REDACTED]

Preliminary information provided by security staff assigned to the secure unit at [REDACTED] as Inmate Estrada was being transported to [REDACTED] from the Reception and Medical Center on July 28, 2015. During the transport Officer Wayne Madole heard Inmate Estrada call for help. Officer Madole looked into the back of the van and observed [REDACTED] on the security screen and on Inmate Estrada. Contact was made with Captain Troy Hawkins who directed the transport to continue to [REDACTED] due to only being fifteen to twenty minutes away. Upon arrival, Inmate Estrada was observed to have possibly [REDACTED]

Upon arrival, Special Agent Nauss and Dandelake were provided with all required documents per the current MOU. Agent Nauss and Dandelake examined the scene and photographed Inmate Estrada's body. There were no signs of foul play relayed to this writer by Agent Nauss or Agent Dandelake. Interviews of staff were conducted by FDLE and Inmate Estrada's body was released to the Jacksonville Medical Examiner's Office.



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On July 30, 2015 the autopsy of Inmate Estrada was conducted at the Duval County Medical Examiner's Office. The autopsy was conducted by Doctor Jessie Giles who provided a preliminary cause of death as, [REDACTED] Doctor Giles could not immediately determine if the [REDACTED] was a result of Inmate Estrada's actions or it may have occurred during the [REDACTED] during the transport. Doctor Giles added that he was going to [REDACTED] Giles stated that he may not be able to determine the cause and needed to look at what [REDACTED] were done by [REDACTED] Doctor Giles advised there were no signs of [REDACTED] consistent with physical abuse, battery or foul play.

On June 16, 2016, this writer inquired and received the investigative conclusion from FDLE case number OR-37-0029. The following information was derived during the investigation to include;

Based on witness interviews (both Corrections Personnel and civilians) and the autopsy of the decedent's body by the District IV Medical Examiner's Office, It can be concluded that Estrada died as result of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] No indication was derived from interviews and evidence that the contributing factor in Inmate Estrada's demise was anything other than [REDACTED] No evidence of mistreatment by F.D.O.C. staff or other F.D.O.C. inmates was found to have contributed to inmate Estrada's death during the investigation. Based on the conclusion, the case will be closed.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Susie Koteen the case be termed as follows:

1. Investigative Assist Closed

Inspector Manning reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and no administrative issues were identified.