

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 15-24442**



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



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Case Number: 15-24442

OIG Inspector: Inspector Carrie Ryan

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Paul Marcus

Date Assigned or Initiated: 10-20-2015

Complaint Against: N/A

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

Complainant: N/A

Outside Agency Case #: MI-73-2148

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 October 16, 2015, while assigned as Foxtrot dormitory officer, Officer Justin Jasper observed Inmate Hanzel Bloodsaw positioned over the top bunk with a sheet around his neck. Upon the arrival of assistance, a ligature cutter was utilized to remove the sheet from around Inmate Bloodsaw's neck. Once Inmate Bloodsaw was placed on the floor, [REDACTED]. Inmate Bloodsaw was pronounced deceased by Miami Dade Fire Rescue on the scene. Florida Department of Law Enforcement responded to Dade Correctional Institution and is the lead investigating authority. An investigative assist was opened and assigned to Inspector Carrie Ryan.

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 October 16, 2015, while conducting feeding in Foxtrot Dormitory, Officer Justin Jasper approached cell F3117, which housed Inmate Hanzel Bloodsaw, and observed Inmate Bloodsaw positioned over the top bunk with a sheet tied around his neck through a partially covered window. He (Officer Jasper) opened the cell door food-port which allowed him to see Inmate Bloodsaw's complete body.

He immediately notified Officer Edward Johnson, who was also present in wing three. They both responded to the wing door and got the attention of Sergeant Marquise Tuff. All three staff reported back to cell F3117, and Sergeant Tuff requested the assistance [REDACTED]. Sergeant Tuff advised him (Officer Jasper) to depart the area and retrieve the ligature cutter from the Officer's Station.

Upon return to cell F3117, he (Officer Jasper) observed Officer Johnson and Sergeant Tuff inside of the cell lifting Inmate Bloodsaw's body up by grasping his upper extremities. Sergeant Tuff was handed the ligature cutters and he (Officer Jasper) grasped Inmate Bloodsaw's upper extremities while Sergeant Tuff utilized the ligature cutter to cut the sheet from around Inmate Bloodsaw's neck. Once the sheet was removed, Inmate Bloodsaw's body was positioned on the floor and Sergeant Tuff began [REDACTED]. He (Officer Jasper) continued with [REDACTED] until [REDACTED] arrived and [REDACTED]. Once [REDACTED] arrived, he (Officer Jasper) departed the area.

On October 16, 2015, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent (SA) Paul Marcus and Special Agent Supervisor (SAS) Duane Little responded to Dade Correctional Institution in response to the request made by Florida Department of Corrections regarding an inmate death. Upon arrival to Dade Correctional Institution, SA Marcus and SAS Little conducted interviews and an investigation into the death of Inmate Hanzel Bloodsaw [REDACTED].

Based on SA Paul Marcus' findings documented in FDLE case number MI-73-2148, and the findings from Miami Dade County Medical Examiner's Office, Inmate Bloodsaw's cause of death [REDACTED] and the manner of death as suicide. Special Agent Marcus' case was closed on October 22, 2015.



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An autopsy was performed on Inmate Hanzel Bloodsaw DC# L07681 on October 19, 2015, at Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's Office. The cause of death was [REDACTED] and the manner, suicide. The autopsy report was signed by Sean Hurst, M.D.

The wing video was reviewed by the institution's administration at the inception of the death investigation; and subsequently a recommendation for discipline was sent to human resources. The imposition of discipline would be initiated upon closure of this investigative assist.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during the investigation conducted by Special Agent Paul Marcus, the case is termed as follows:

1. Investigative Assist Closed

Inspector Ryan reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and no administrative issues were identified in their report; however, upon review of Foxtrot housing log for October 16, 2015, it appears that there were discrepancies in the times that security checks were conducted. At the onset of the death investigation, the Administration of Dade Correctional Institution referred the discrepancies directly to the Office of Human Relations requesting discipline. The review by DART is pending closure of the investigative assist.