

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 18-05212



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



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Case Number: 18-05212

Inspector: Stacy L. Harris

Date Assigned or Initiated: 03/16/18

Complaint Against: Inmate Alvin Alexander #P46570 (Deceased)

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

Complainant: Captain Jody Chopp

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death

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 a preponderance of the evidence exists to suggest the suspect's alleged behavior or action did not occur.

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 March 16, 2018, at approximately 9:57 p.m., Inspector Supervisor Katouree Jackson notified Senior Inspector Stacy L. Harris [REDACTED] at Okaloosa Correctional Institution. Inmate Alvin Alexander, DC #P46570, [REDACTED] was notified and currently at the Institution. Inspector Harris then contacted Shift Supervisor Captain Jody Chopp who advised Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] at approximately 9:30 p.m., [REDACTED]. A criminal investigation was initiated at that time and assigned to Senior Inspector Harris.

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 16, 2018, At approximately 9:57 p.m., Senior Inspector Stacy L. Harris was notified by Supervisor Jackson.

Inspector Harris made contact with Captain Jody Chopp, the Shift Supervisor, who advised Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] in cell C4-214 at approximately 9:30 p.m. Captain Chopp advised a camera review was in progress; Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to the person of Inmate Alexander; the cell he was found in was not his assigned cell, which was C4-410.

At approximately 10:04 p.m., Inspector Harris notified Supervisor Jackson of the brief and requested she contact FDLE.

At approximately 10:30 p.m., Inspector Harris was contacted by FDLE Supervisor Chuck Bufalino and was advised of the information gathered thus far. FDLE Supervisor Bufalino requested a call back with more information.

At approximately 10:33 p.m., Inspector Harris arrived at the Institution and met with Assistant Warden James Barton and Colonel Eric Hall and was advised Inmate Alexander was pronounced deceased at 10:26 p.m.

At approximately 10:36 p.m., Inspector Harris called FDLE Supervisor Bufalino and advised of the Inmate's death [REDACTED] Inmate's right index finger, indicative of smoking. Inspector Harris was advised to obtain [REDACTED] and determine what the camera footage showed and call FDLE Supervisor Bufalino back.

At approximately 10:43 p.m., Inspector Harris contacted FDLE Supervisor Bufalino and advised she had spoken [REDACTED] and Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] had past use of K2 and [REDACTED]. FDLE Supervisor Bufalino advised they would not be responding.

At approximately, 10:57 p.m., Inspector Harris notified the Medical Examiner's Office.

At approximately 11:01 p.m., Medical Examiner Investigator Renee Zeigler contacted Inspector Harris



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who advised of all information given thus far and that FDLE was not responding. Ms. Zeigler advised the Medical Examiner's Office would not be responding and she would contact body removal services.

At approximately 11:09 p.m., Inspector Harris interviewed Inmate Kevin Whittaker, DC #R59131, who was assigned to cell C4-214, where Inmate Alexander was found. Inmate Whittaker advised Inmate Alexander came into his cell at an unknown time and asked for a light for a "joint," K2 Spice, and then smoked this joint in his cell. Inmate Alexander fell asleep for a few minutes, [REDACTED] Inmate Whittaker admitted to smoking K2 Spice earlier in the afternoon, but not with Inmate Alexander. Inmate Whittaker advised no other inmate entered the cell while Inmate Alexander was there and there was no confrontation between he and Inmate Alexander. Once Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] Inmate Whittaker attempted to wake him and then went for assistance.

At approximately 11:21 p.m., FDLE Supervisor Bufalino called Inspector Harris and Inspector Harris advised of Inmate Whittaker's statement. FDLE Supervisor advised Inspector Harris he would be sending some agents after he made a few telephone calls.

At approximately 11:24 p.m., FDLE Supervisor Bufalino called Inspector Harris and advised they would not be responding.

Inspector Harris obtained copies of Inmate Alexander's [REDACTED].

Inspector Harris met with Assistant Warden Barton and requested security staff photograph the cells and search each inmate's property as she had to respond [REDACTED] exam the body before the body removal service arrived. Assistant Warden Barton advised he would email photographs and copies of all incident reports upon completion to Inspector Harris.

At approximately 11:40 p.m., Inspector Harris obtained a copy of the dormitory video footage from Sergeant O'Neal in the control room prior to her departure from the Institution. A review of this video did not show any other inmate enter the cell after Inmate Alexander. (NOTE: These discs were delivered to the District 1 RECA)

At approximately 11:58 p.m., Inspector Harris arrived [REDACTED] and met with Sergeant Trent Greggor, then photographed the body of Inmate Alexander. [REDACTED] Inmate Alexander's [REDACTED] indicative of smoking. [REDACTED] Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] and provided copies [REDACTED] from their records.

At approximately 12:20 a.m., Inspector Harris called Renee Zeigler, Medical Examiner's Office, and advised of the condition of the body of Inmate Alexander and was advised the autopsy would not be until Monday and she would call Inspector Harris to advise what time. Inspector Harris asked if there was an estimated time of arrival for the body removal service and Ms. Zeigler advised she did not have that information.

At approximately 1:25 a.m. (3/17/18), West Florida Removal Service staff arrived [REDACTED] and removed the body of Inmate Alexander at 1:40 a.m.

On March 16, 2018, in an incident report submitted by Sergeant Timothy Butler, he indicated the following:



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“On March 16, 2018, I was assigned at Okaloosa Correctional Institution – Main Unit as the Charlie Dormitory Housing Supervisor. At approximately [REDACTED] I was conducting Master Roster Count of Wing One (1). Upon completion of Wing One. I immediately responded to Wing 4 cell 4214. Upon my arrival I observed Inmate Alexander, Alvin DC# P46570 laying on bunk 4214L (which is not his assigned bunk) and did [REDACTED]. I then initiated ICS and checked Inmate Alexander [REDACTED]. I notified the control room that the inmate [REDACTED]. Shortly thereafter Officer Jeremy Kerpsack arrived on the scene and we moved Inmate Alexander to the ground for more room [REDACTED]. At approximately 9:31 P.M. [REDACTED]. At approximately 9:33PM with the assistance of Officer Kerpsack, Captain Chopp and myself carried Inmate Alexander down stairs [REDACTED]. He was then escorted to [REDACTED] was continued. The control room was updated on the inmate’s status by Captain Chopp.”

In the Shift Supervisor’s section of this report, Captain Jody Chopp indicated the following:

“Sergeant Aaron O’Neal notified Duty Warden Hames Barton of the incident at approximately 9:44pm, the Emergency Action Center was notified at approximately 9:47pm, and Duty Officer White received the call. [REDACTED] at 9:45pm and Inmate Alexander departed the institution [REDACTED] at 10:07pm. Sergeant Trent Gregor, Officer Derek Savage, and Officer Hilary Armstrong were assigned to transport Inmate Alexander [REDACTED]. At approximately 10:26pm, Inmate Alexander was pronounced deceased [REDACTED]. Inspector Harris arrived at the institution and conducted the investigation into this incident. Sergeant O’Neal added a threat on the emergency tracker for the incident. Forward to the Correctional Officer Chief for review.”

On March 16, 2018, in an incident report submitted by Correctional Officer Jeremy Kerpsack, he indicated the following:

“On March 16, 2018 I was assigned as the internal security officer. At approximately 9:28pm I responded to an ICS radio traffic from Charlie dorm of an inmate [REDACTED] in wing 4 cell 4214. I discovered Inmate Whittaker, Kevin DC#R59131 was assigned to the cell, but no other inmate as assigned to it. [REDACTED] Inmate Alexander, Alvin DC# P46570, I went back and reviewed the fixed wing camera. At approximately 8:28pm Inmate Whittaker, and Inmate Alexander enter cell 4214. At approximately 8:29pm Inmate Whittaker puts up a blanket to cover his cell door. At 10:55pm I escorted Inmate Whittaker [REDACTED] to see Inspector [REDACTED]. Inmate Whittaker [REDACTED] and admitted that he had been previously smoking the drug. Inmate Whittaker, and signed the DC6-2065 admission of drug use. Inmate Whittaker will receive Disciplinary Report for 9-27 use of unauthorized drugs. A copy of the affidavit has been attached.”

A review of Inmate Alexander’s [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] indicated, “Notified by security at 2130 – [REDACTED] initiated at 2125 by security. Arrived in dormitory at 2133. Security notified EMS at 2132. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at 2152.”



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A review of institutional [REDACTED] indicated Inmate Alexander [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

A review of [REDACTED] revealed Inmate Alexander [REDACTED] dated June 11, 2016, the following was noted:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]
8. [REDACTED] . [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

On July 10, 2018, Inspector Harris received a copy of the autopsy report, authored by Dr. Timothy Gallagher, which indicated the following:

“CAUSE OF DEATH: [REDACTED]”

“CONTRIBUTORY CAUSE: [REDACTED]”

“MANNER OF DEATH: ACCIDENT”

VII. CHARGES

- None

VIII. CONCLUSION

Senior Inspector Stacy L. Harris reviewed the investigation and the autopsy report, and administrative issues were not identified. Therefore, based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Harris the death of Inmate Alvin Alexander, DC #P46570, be determined as accidental, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and this investigation be closed, termed:

- Investigative Assist Closed