

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 17-01620**



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



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Case Number: 17-01620

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Louis Cordova

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Matt Infinger

Date Assigned or Initiated: January 26, 2017

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Santa Rosa Correctional Institution

Complainant: Officer Sean McNamara

Outside Agency Case #: PE-37-0062

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death Investigation

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 or about January 30, 2017, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, received information via Management Information Notes System (MINS) 753955, indicating on January 26, 2017, at approximately 4:33 p.m., in wing two (2) of B-dormitory at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution, Correctional Officer Sean McNamara observed the cell window to cell B2-214 covered with paper. Sergeant Justin Suggs responded to cell B2-214 and was able to see, through a small opening in the covering, Inmate Jared Braun DC# X61295 with a bed sheet tied around his neck and the other end of the sheet tied to the top bunk, hanging himself. The cell door was breached, [REDACTED] responded to the dormitory [REDACTED] Inmate Braun [REDACTED] [REDACTED] where he was pronounced deceased by [REDACTED] at 5:51 p.m. Inspector Darla Henderson was notified and responded to Santa Rosa Correctional Institution. Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified, responded and Special Agent Matt Infinger initiated a criminal investigation. On January 30, 2017, Inspector Darla Henderson was assigned investigative assist 17-01620, to assist FDLE in their investigation. On February 28, 2018, the case was re-assigned to Senior Inspector Louis Cordova.

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:

Investigator's Note: *The summary findings listed below were obtained from the FDLE investigative reports associated with FDLE Case# PE-37-0062.*

According to FDLE Special Agent Infinger, on January 26, 2017, the Florida Department of Corrections (FDOC) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) notified FDLE of the death of Inmate Braun at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution (SARCI). FDLE Special Agent Infinger responded to SARCI located in Milton, Florida, to initiate a death investigation.

Inmate Braun was found in his single man cell, B2-214, with a white sheet tied around his neck hanging from the top bunk.

FDLE Special Agent Infinger [REDACTED] on Inmate Braun's [REDACTED] Upon completion of the autopsy, Dr. Andrea Minyard indicated Inmate Braun's [REDACTED], and it looked like Inmate Braun [REDACTED] FDLE Special Agent Infinger reviewed the surveillance video footage and observed the officers doing their security checks, nurses making their rounds, and meals being handed to the inmates through the door flaps. FDLE Special Agent Infinger further observed officers and inmate workers handing out meal trays at approximately 4:33 p.m. on January 26, 2017, according to the video time stamp. At this time, an officer (Officer Sean McNamara) discovered Inmate Braun [REDACTED] in his cell. Additional staff responded at Inmate Braun's cell and entry into the cell occurred at approximately 4:37 p.m. The only inmate to exit cell B2-214 was Inmate Braun [REDACTED].

On March 6, 2017, FDLE Special Agent Infinger received the autopsy report for Inmate Braun. Dr. Minyard ruled Inmate Braun's cause of death [REDACTED] and the manner of death was suicide.



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Due to the evidence in this case indicating Inmate Braun [REDACTED] the death investigation was closed as a suicide.

Investigator's Note: *On March 28, 2017, FDLE Special Agent Matt Infinger notified Inspector Henderson the death investigation of Inmate Braun had been closed. Inspector Henderson requested a copy of the FDLE case reports for Case# PE-37-0062.*

On April 29, 2017, via email communication, Inspector Darla Henderson again requested a copy of the associated FDLE case reports regarding the death of Inmate Braun from FDLE Special Agent Infinger.

On March 13, 2018, Senior Inspector Cordova received all of the investigative reports pertaining to the death investigation of Inmate Braun. Inspector Cordova's review of the death investigation completed by FDLE did not identify any administrative issues.

VII. CHARGES

There were no charges. Dr. Minyard ruled Inmate Braun's death as suicide [REDACTED].

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during FDLE Special Agent Matt Infinger's investigation, it is the recommendation of Senior Inspector Louis Cordova that the death of Inmate Braun be termed as follows:

- **Exceptionally Cleared**