

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 16-07161**



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



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Case Number: 16-07161

OIG Inspector: Inspector Dorothy Stafford

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent April Glover

Date Assigned or Initiated: 04-06-2016

Complaint Against: Inmate Jason Rodriguez DC#X84347 (*deceased*)

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

Complainant: Lieutenant James Stephenson

Outside Agency Case #: TL-37-0027

Use of Force Number: 13-1234

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: 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 April 5, 2016, at approximately 10:08AM, at Columbia Correctional Institution Annex (CCI), Officer Elwyn Bell, discovered Inmate Jason Rodriguez DC#X84347 in his confinement cell (N3-202) [REDACTED]. Officer Bell called for assistance. Once assistance arrived, the cell door was breached. [REDACTED] Dan Hartley immediately [REDACTED] on Inmate Rodriguez and additional [REDACTED] responded. At 10:31AM [REDACTED] Loretta Dawson pronounced Inmate Rodriguez deceased. Inmate Rodriguez was moved to [REDACTED] to await the arrival of [REDACTED] who arrived at 11:00AM, and again pronounced Inmate Rodriguez deceased. Inmate Rodriguez's roommate, Inmate John Robinson DC#138210, was secured in the Holding Cell and cell N3-202 was secured as a crime scene pending further instructions.

The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified. Supervisor (RAC) Jim Flournoy and Special Agent (SA) April Glover responded and assumed the investigative lead, with Senior Inspector Dorothy Stafford and Inspector Peter Lindboe assisting.

The incident was reported via the Management Information Notification System and is assigned as an Investigative Assist to Senior Inspector Dorothy Stafford on April 6, 2016.

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 April 5, 2016, Senior Inspector Stafford and Inspector Lindboe responded to CCI Annex in reference to the death of Inmate Rodriguez. Upon arriving, Inmate Rodriguez's body was examined [REDACTED].

FDLE was notified, responded and SA Glover assumed the investigative lead.

SA Glover and RAC Flournoy viewed and photographed Inmate Rodriguez's body and confinement cell, interviewed several staff members, and inmates housed in N-Dormitory. Preliminary information received was that Inmate Rodriguez [REDACTED].

On July 29, 2016, SA Glover provided a disk containing her investigation (Case #TL-37-0027). SA Glover's investigation concluded that based on the evidence, Inmate Rodriguez's death was the result of [REDACTED].

SA Glover's report did not reveal any Administrative issues that needed to be addressed.

The disk containing SA Glover's investigation and reports is too large to be uploaded into IGIIS and will be maintained in the case file.



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VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on information/evidence gathered during their investigation, FDLE Special Agent April Glover has concluded Inmate Rodriguez's death was due [REDACTED] and a Suicide. No foul play is suspected.

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