

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 16-19463**



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



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Case Number: 16-19463

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Mark A. Garcia

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Nicole Miller

Date Assigned or Initiated: 10-24-2016

Complaint Against: N/A

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Central Florida Reception Center Main Unit

Complainant: Warden Michael Morgan

Outside Agency Case #: OR-37-0045

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

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 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 23rd 2016 Senior Inspector Mark A. Garcia responded to the Central Florida Reception Center Main Unit reference the unexpected death of Inmate Wade Martin [Y02979]. Inspector Garcia responded to assist Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) agents who were deployed to the facility to investigate the inmate death. This was reported via Management Information Notes System (MINS) 733662 and assigned as Investigative Assist 16-19463 to Inspector Garcia.

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 22nd 2016 at approximately 9:43 PM, security staff at the Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC) Main Unit were notified by Inmate Theodore Butterfield [R28877] of [REDACTED] in C-Dorm cell C2206. Inmate Butterfield advised that Inmate Wade Martin [Y02979] was in [REDACTED] Correctional Officer Trainee (COT) Shaquanna Godbolt radioed for assistance. Correctional Officer Sergeant (Sgt.) Robert Lange responded to the cell and discovered Inmate Butterfield and Inmate Justin Blackmon [534583] [REDACTED] on Inmate Martin. Sgt. Lange contacted [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Sgt. Lange [REDACTED] Inmate Martin. The Officer in Charge of the Institution Captain David Smith responded to the scene of the [REDACTED] along with other staff members. The control room staff activated [REDACTED] CFRC [REDACTED] were also activated.

Security staff members Sgt. Antonette Broomfield; Sgt. Robert Lange; Sgt. Harry Headlam; Sgt. Kenneth Stoner; Officer (Ofc.) Carl Harris; and Ofc. Richard Weaver, along with [REDACTED], responded to the scene. They all took turns [REDACTED] to Inmate Martin for approximately 20 minutes until they were relieved by [REDACTED] that arrived on scene. The [REDACTED] from Orange County [REDACTED] who responded were: [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] personnel took over [REDACTED] until Inmate Martin was officially declared deceased at approximately 22:07 P.M. Inmate Martin was declared deceased by [REDACTED] Inmate Martin's body was not removed from the scene and CFRC staff members secured cell C2206 with Inmate Martin's body within it. They did not touch or alter the scene or Inmate Martin's body. It was secured for investigation by Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and Office of Inspector General staff.

Warden Michael Morgan and Duty Warden Sandra Moore were notified. They responded to the scene. Duty Warden Moore contacted Inmate Martin's next of kin and notified them of his passing. Office of Inspector General Inspector Supervisor Yolanda Brown was notified. Inspector Supervisor Brown contacted Senior Inspector Mark A. Garcia and instructed him to respond. Inspector Supervisor Brown contacted FDLE as established in protocols and procedures.

Inspector Garcia responded to the scene. Initial observations by Inspector Garcia from outside the cell
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did not reveal any signs of foul play or obvious signs of a struggle at the scene. There was no blood splatter; no blood pooling; no foreign objects on or in the body; no ligature marks; no bruising; no lacerations or other suspicious items which would indicate foul play. Inmate Martin's body was lying flat on the ground inside the dorm, face up feet towards the door. Inmate Martin's body had [REDACTED] and there were [REDACTED] by the body, which is consistent with [REDACTED]

FDLE Special Agents Nicole Miller and Todd Jones responded to the scene. They were briefed by Inspector Garcia and Warden Morgan. FDLE Agents conducted a preliminary investigation which included inspection of the scene, cell search, photographs, recovery of Inmate Martin's cellmates' clothing, and interviews of all identifiable witnesses. According to Agent Miller there were no suspicious findings during the course of their preliminary investigation. Agent Miller advised that she learned during the course of her investigation, that Inmate Martin had [REDACTED] and refused to take [REDACTED]. Furthermore, throughout the day he [REDACTED]. There was nothing to indicate the death of Inmate Martin was caused by anything other than a [REDACTED] or natural causes. However, Agent Miller advised that final determination on cause of death was pending the results of an autopsy by the medical examiner's office. Agent Miller completed an Investigative Demand for Records as part of her investigation. The request was submitted to Inspector Garcia. The records requested by Agent Miller will be compiled by Inspector Garcia and provided to her at a later date. FDLE agents completed their preliminary investigation and departed from the scene. They indicated once Inmate Martin's body was removed by the medical examiner, the scene could be released back to security staff and normal operations at the dorm could resume.

Orange County Medical Examiner Investigator Emily Myers arrived at CFRC and she was briefed by Inspector Garcia. Investigator Myers conducted her preliminary investigation and secured Inmate Martin's body. Inmate Martin's body was relocated to the coroner's office for an autopsy. Investigator Myers departed from the scene.

There were no indicators that Inmate Martin's death was caused by anything other than a [REDACTED] or natural causes. Investigators released the scene back to security staff and the Central Florida Reception Center resumed normal operations.

Emergency Action Center Duty Officer White was notified of Inmate Martin's death.

FDLE Special Agent Miller was the primary investigator for this inmate death.

On February 16, 2017 Special Agent Miller informed Senior Inspector Mark A. Garcia that her investigation was concluded. The final determination by Agent Miller, the FDLE and the Orange County Medical Examiner's Office, was that Inmate Martin's death was the result of **Natural Causes** due to [REDACTED].

Agent Miller provided Inspector Garcia an Electronic Case File which included the results of the FDLE investigation. The case file was included in a CD with FDLE case number OR-37-0045. Inspector Garcia processed the CD as evidence, attached a chain of custody and secured it in the Temporary Storage Locker pending placement in the Office of Inspector general evidence repository.



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VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. No statutory violations; no administrative rule violations; and no improprieties detected or committed by Florida Department of Corrections staff.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, and the conclusion of their investigative efforts, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Nicole Miller that the death of Inmate Martin be ruled **Natural**.