

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 16-21557**



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



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**Case Number:** 16-21557

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Kate Gustafson

**Outside Agency:** Florida Department of Law Enforcement

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 12-01-2016

**Complaint Against:** Inmate Robert Bruns DC# 345340

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

**Complainant:**

**Outside Agency Case #:** PE-37-0057

**Use of Force Number:** N/A

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** 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 November 29, 2016, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General, received information indicating, security staff found Inmate Robert Bruns DC# 345340, [REDACTED] inside a secured transport buss at Santa Rosa Correctional Institution-Annex at approximately 1:40 p.m. and was subsequently declared deceased [REDACTED] at 2:15 p.m. Inspector Kate Gustafson and Inspector Andrew Tokajer were notified and dispatched to SARC-A. Inspector Maurice Radford notified the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Watch Desk of the incident. This investigative Assist case was documented in Management Information Notes System (MINS) report # 741595 and was assigned to Inspector Kate Gustafson on December 1, 2016.

**VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

Based on the exhibits, witnesses' testimony, statements, and the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On June 19, 2017, Inspector Kate Gustafson corresponded with FDLE Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo in regards to open death investigation in Inmate Bruns. Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo indicated this was still an open/active FDLE investigation pending the results of the toxicology report from the Medical Examiner.

On November 16, 2017, Inspector Kate Gustafson corresponded with FDLE Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo in regards to open death investigation of Inmate Bruns. Special Agent Meaghan Palumbo provided Inspector Kate Gustafson with a copy of the FDLE final report, case # PE-37-0057.

*NOTE: The results of the autopsy performed on Inmate Bruns was not provided by FDLE Special Agent Palumbo to Inspector Kate Gustafson. A copy of the autopsy results was obtained from the 1st Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner's Office.*

On November 29, 2017, Inspector Kate Gustafson obtained the official autopsy report from the 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit Medical Examiner's Office.

Inspector Kate Gustafson reviewed the FDLE case and autopsy report and identified the following facts and information:

The FDLE investigation was closed on June 23, 2017, with the cause of Inmate Brun's death cited as [REDACTED] and the manner of death listed as "Accidental".

*Note: This investigation found no violations of Florida Administrative Code or Department of Corrections Procedures.*

**VII. CHARGES**

- N/A



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**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during the course of this investigative assist case, it is the recommendation of Inspector Kate Gustafson, the cause of death for Inmate Robert Bruns, be termed accidental and this case be closed.

- Investigative Assist Closed