

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 18-07126**



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



Table of Contents

I. AUTHORITY	4
II. METHODOLOGY.....	4
III. ANALYSIS.....	4
IV. DEFINITIONS	5
V. PREDICATE	6
VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS.....	6
VII. CHARGES.....	6
VIII. CONCLUSION.....	6



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Case Number: 18-07126

OIG Inspector: Inspector Zach Mulharan

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Ken Silberstein

Date Assigned or Initiated: 4/18/18

Complaint Against: Inmate John Reese

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: CFRC, Main Unit

Complainant: N/A

Outside Agency Case #: OR-37-0081

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Suicide

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: N/A



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



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.



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



V. PREDICATE

On April 17, 2018, during inmate count, Inmate John Rees [REDACTED] in the G Dorm shower area at Central Florida Reception Center (CFRC), In Orlando, Florida. On April 19, 2018, this was assigned as an investigative assist to Senior Inspector Zach Mulharan.

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 17, 2018, at 1:12 pm, during inmate count, Inmate John Reese [REDACTED] in the G Dorm shower area by Officer Christopher Pierre-Louis.

Officer Pierre-Louis made emergency notifications and attempted to remove the blanket from around Inmate Reese's neck. Additional staff arrived and could remove the sheet from Reese's neck. [REDACTED] in Inmate Reese. Security staff members [REDACTED] Reese. At 1:18 pm, CFRC [REDACTED] security staff [REDACTED]

At 1:36 pm, [REDACTED]

At 2:04 pm, Reese was pronounced dead.

At 4:00 pm, FDLE agents arrived and began investigating Inmate Reese's death.

At 5:45 pm, staff from the medical examiner's officer arrived and at 5:58 pm, they departed with Inmate Reese's body.

Inmate Reese's Jpay video messaging day before indicated he might attempt to take his own life. This information was provided to FDLE.

On August 29, 2018, Agent Ted Silberstein reported to CFRC and provided their investigation to Inspector Mike Wyatt. A review of the FDLE investigation indicated as suspected, this was a suicide [REDACTED] and no wrong doing by Department staff was noted, and no administrative issues were not identified. The FDLE investigation is contained on a CD and will be provided to District 7 supervisor to forward to Central Office.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

Not applicable, Inmate Suicide [REDACTED]

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Ted Silberstein this incident, be termed as follows:

Case Number: 18-07126



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INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST SUMMARY REPORT



Investigative Assist Closed