

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 16-09567**



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



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Case Number: 16-09567

OIG Inspector: Inspector LaQuietta Thompson

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Tatiana Miguel

Date Assigned or Initiated: 06-06-2016

Complaint Against: N/A

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

Complainant: State of Florida

Outside Agency Case #: MI-37-0036

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Suicide

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 May 17, 2016, the Office of the Inspector General (“OIG”) received MINS 699152 reporting they were notified by [REDACTED] of the death of Inmate Andrew DiFrancesco DC# W51811. Inmate DiFrancesco had been transferred [REDACTED] following a suicide attempt at Dade Correctional Institution (DCI) on May 11, 2016. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) was notified, and initiated an investigation in FDLE case MI-37-0036. Inspector LaQuietta Thompson was assigned investigative assist 16-09567 to assist FDLE in their investigation.

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:

Contact was made with Florida Department of Law Enforcement to obtain the investigative report conducted by Special Agent (SA) Tatiana Miguel. SA Miguel documents the following:

On May 11, 2016, she was serving as Duty Agent for Florida Department of Law Enforcement/Miami Regional Operations Center (FDLE/MROC) [REDACTED] Inmate Andrew Difrancesco DC# W51811 due to an attempted suicide at Dade Correctional Institution (DCI).

The scene was located in the Department of Corrections Dade Correctional Institute, specifically [REDACTED] building. Inmate Difrancesco was assigned to work in the laundry facilities contained within the structure in the center of the building on the first floor.

The building had two stairwells leading to the second floor. One on the outer front side of the building and one in the inner corridor both leading to the same second floor landing. Inmate Difrancesco had access to the inner stairwell as a custodian in the laundry section of the building.

Inmate Difrancesco was found hanging off the bannister from the second floor inner stairwell railing which stood approximately 13 feet from the first floor landing. On both doors leading into the inner stairwell there were handwritten notes which when compared to documents found in the personal belongings of Inmate Difrancesco appeared to be Difrancesco’s handwriting. The

Following his discovery, Inmate Difrancesco was immediately transferred [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Inmate Difrancesco [REDACTED] on Sunday, May 15, 2016, at 10:17am.

Her investigation revealed Inmate Difrancesco died [REDACTED] his death was ruled a suicide by the Miami Dade County Medical Examiner.

A copy of SA Miguel’s case in its entirety is attached to this report.



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According to the Miami Dade Medical Examiner Report; Inmate Difrancesco's Cause Of Death –
[REDACTED] Manner of Death – Suicide.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

No violations identified.

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during their investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Tatiana Miguel the death investigation be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared.

Inspector Thompson reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and no administrative issues were identified.