

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

Case # 17-01464



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
CASE SUMMARY REPORT



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Case Number: 17-01464

Inspector: Inspector Kenneth Smith

Date Assigned or Initiated: 01/26/17

Complaint Against: Inmate Paul Vencatasawmy DC#X84325

Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office: Reception and Medical Center Hospital

Complainant: Sergeant Kevin Richardson

Use of Force Number: N/A

PREA Number: N/A

Classification of Incident: Inmate Death (Accident)

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Equal Employment Opportunity 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 a preponderance of the evidence exists to suggest the suspect's alleged behavior or action did not occur.

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.



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V. PREDICATE

On January 25, 2017, at approximately 11:52 PM, Reception and Medical Center (RMC) Inmate Paul Vencatasawmy DC#X84325 was pronounced deceased of Natural Causes [REDACTED] while housed at RMC [REDACTED]. This information was entered into MINS#753037 on January 26, 2017, and assigned as Criminal Case 17-01464 to Inspector Kenneth Smith on January 26, 2017.

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:

A review of department records reveal that Inmate Vencatasawmy was housed at an [REDACTED] from December 14, 2016 through December 19, 2016. On December 13, 2016, Inmate Vencatasawmy was [REDACTED]

Inmate Vencatasawmy was housed at the RMC [REDACTED] from December 19, 2016 through December 24, 2016. On December 24, 2016, Inmate Vencatasawmy was [REDACTED], where he remained until January 17, 2017. Inmate Vencatasawmy was housed at RMC [REDACTED] from January 17, 2017, until his death on January 25, 2017.

On January 25, 2017, at approximately 11:30am, Inmate Vencatasawmy (*Housed in [REDACTED]*) was found on the bathroom floor by [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was notified and Inmate Vencatasawmy was transferred to [REDACTED].

Inmate Vencatasawmy was [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] Description of occurrence listed as: [REDACTED]. Inmate Vencatasawmy was noted to have a [REDACTED] within the past 8 weeks, [REDACTED]

After being [REDACTED], Inmate Vencatasawmy was returned to RMC [REDACTED]

Inmate Vencatasawmy's [REDACTED] indicated he had a [REDACTED]. He was noted on January 16, 18, 21, and two times on the 25, 2017, with [REDACTED]

On January 25, 2017, at approximately 11:52 PM, Reception and Medical Center (RMC) Inmate Paul Vencatasawmy DC#X84325 was pronounced deceased of Natural Causes [REDACTED] while housed at RMC [REDACTED]. Since the death was initially classified as a Natural Death, FDLE was not immediately notified.



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██████████ indicated in an incident report Inmate Vencatasawmy was found on the floor in the ██████████ bathroom with a ██████████ ██████████ She was questioned by Inspector Smith and indicated the ██████████ bathroom is in full view of the ██████████ desk and no one entered the bathroom except Vencatasawmy.

On January 26, 2017, Gainesville Medical Examiner William Hamilton submitted the final autopsy report for Inmate Vencatasawmy. Doctor Hamilton listed the cause of death as ██████████ ██████████ ██████████

The Manner of Death was listed ██████████ Once the Medical Examiner ruled the Manner of Death ██████████ FDLE was notified on January 26, 2017, at 10:08am. Inmate Vencatasawmy's ██████████ were consistent with a ██████████ ██████████

FDLE Supervisor Special Agent Matt Walsh was contacted and he indicated he would send FDLE Special Agent Amanda Spurlin to the medical examiner's office to obtain additional information on the death.

FDLE Special Agent Spurlin indicated in her report (JA-73-1671) she contacted District Eight Medical Examiner William Hamilton. Hamilton indicated to her Vencatasawmy ██████████ ██████████ Vencatasawmy also ██████████ ██████████ Vencatasawmy was noted in his ██████████ while at RMC due to his ██████████ Hamilton stated Vencatasawmy's ██████████ were consistent with a ██████████ ██████████ Hamilton advised Vencatasawmy's death would likely be ruled ██████████ with his ██████████ as a contributing factor. FDLE Supervisor Matt Walsh indicated his agency would not investigate the incident any further due to the Medical Examiner indicating the ██████████ to Vencatasawmy were deemed ██████████.

No Administrative violations were noted during this investigation.

VII. CHARGES

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

1. N/A

VIII. CONCLUSION

Based on the information gathered during this investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Kenneth Smith this case be closed. The Gainesville Medical Examiner listed Inmate Vencatasawmy's death as Natural due to ██████████ ██████████.

1. Exceptionally Cleared