

Florida Department of Corrections



Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST
CASE # 18-14372**



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



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Case Number: 18-14372

OIG Inspector: Senior Inspector Janine Knight

Outside Agency: Florida Department of Law Enforcement

Outside Agency Investigator: Special Agent Riley Brannan

Date Assigned or Initiated: August 16, 2018

Complaint Against: Inmate Daniel Sions DC#195672

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

Complainant: NA

Outside Agency Case #: PE-37-0149

Use of Force Number: 18-14398

PREA Number: NA

Classification of Incident: Death investigation

Confidential Medical Information Included: Yes No

Whistle-Blower Investigation: Yes No

Chief Inspector General Case Number: NA



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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 August 14, 2018, the Department of Corrections, Office of the Inspector General received an Emergency Action Center (EAC) notification alleging on August 14, 2018, Inmate Daniel Sions #195672 was pronounced deceased by [REDACTED] to Inmate Sions' alleged ingestion of an unidentified substance at Okaloosa Correctional Institution. Upon initial review of the information, the Office of the Inspector General assigned Inspector Darla Henderson an investigative Assist Case concerning the allegations on August 16, 2018.

This case was reassigned to Senior Inspector Janine Knight on April 16, 2019.

VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

Based on the record as a whole, presented or available to the primary inspector, the following findings of facts were determined:

On August 14, 2018, Inspector Darla Henderson was notified of the death of Inmate Sions being transported from Okaloosa CI t [REDACTED] where Inmate Sions was subsequently pronounced deceased at 4:24 p.m., [REDACTED]. Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Special Agent Brennan Riley responded and initiated investigation #PE-37-0149.

Review of video:

Inspector Darla Henderson conducted a review of digital video images captured by the fixed wing cameras in wing [REDACTED] of [REDACTED]-Dormitory which indicated Inmate Sions departed his assigned cell, D3-302, acting in an erratic manner. Inmate Sions behavior was consistent with his being under the influence of K-2. Staff entered the wing, and made immediate contact with Inmate Sions. Inmate Sions was not responsive to instruction/orders given by staff and at approximately 2:17 p.m., physical force was utilized on Inmate Sions. Inmate Sions was subsequently placed [REDACTED]

On June 5, 2019, Senior Inspector Knight reviewed the video for any administrative violations and noted none.

Inspector Note: SI Knight obtained a copy of the video from related Use of Force # 18-14398, maintained in the Use of Force Unit. After review, the video was placed with a chain of custody into the temporary storage locker as evidence item #1.

Review of Autopsy:

On May 17, 2019, SI J. Knight received a copy of autopsy protocol MLA 18-756 completed for Inmate Sions, by Associate Medical Examiner Dr. Timothy Gallagher. The report listed Inmate Sions' cause of death as: [REDACTED] and his manner of death was listed as: Accident.

