

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 17-11042**



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



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**Case Number:** 17-11042

**OIG Inspector:** Kevin Ortiz

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

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent George Dandelake

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 06-26-2017

**Complaint Against:** N/A

**Location of Incident – Institution/Facility/Office:** Union Correctional Institution

**Complainant:** Correctional Officer Sergeant Rosevelt Green

**Outside Agency Case #:** JA-37-0129

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

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Inmate Unattended Death

**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 06/22/17, Inmate John Snead DC #E19382 was housed at Union C.I. when he was observed [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] were unsuccessful and Inmate Snead was later pronounced deceased. FDLE (Florida Department of Law Enforcement) responded and assumed the lead in the investigation, Case #JA-37-0129. This was assigned as Investigative Assist Case #17-11042 to Inspector G. Green on 06/26/17. This was re-assigned to Inspector K. Ortiz on 06/15/18.

**VI. SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS**

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

On 06/22/17, Correctional Officer Sergeant Roosevelt Green was assigned as the T Dorm Housing Sergeant at Union C.I. At approximately 05:30 hours, he was present on wing two conducting tray pick up from the morning meal. Upon his arrival to cell T2117, he observed Inmate John Snead lying on his (Snead) bunk and appeared [REDACTED]. He made multiple attempts to gain a response from Inmate Snead, to no avail. He initiated ICS (Incident Command System) requesting for [REDACTED] and additional staff to respond. Captain John Hood responded and determined that an emergency cell breach was necessary for the purpose of Inmate Snead [REDACTED]. At approximately 05:35 hours, and with adequate staff present, the cell door was opened and restraints were applied without incident. The handheld camera was retrieved, and video recording began at approximately 05:37 hours. At approximately 05:38 hours, [REDACTED] Inmate Snead [REDACTED] and escorted [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and at approximately 06:00 hours, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Inmate Snead, to no avail. At approximately 06:25 hours, Inmate Snead was pronounced deceased with the preliminary cause of death being undetermined. A Crime Scene Entry Control Room Log was initiated, and staff remained with the body. Inmate Snead's cell was secured, and a Crime Scene Entry Control Room Log was initiated there also. At approximately 06:30 hours, Inspector George Green was notified. At approximately 09:48 hours, FDLE Agents Keesha Nauss, Veronica Edwards, George Dandelake, and David Maurer entered Union C.I. and conducted an investigation. At approximately 10:57 hours, Bill Grotjahn of the District 8 Medical Examiner's Office was notified and released Inmate Snead's body. At approximately 10:58 hours, Archer Funeral Home was notified. At approximately 10:58 hours, FDLE released the cell [REDACTED] back to normal operations. FDLE interviewed approximately 7 inmates housed in T dorm and 12 staff that responded/assisted.

On 06/22/17, at approximately 6:39 a.m., Inspector George W. Green Jr. was advised of the death of Inmate John Snead. Inspector Green responded and below is a synopsis of his response.

Upon arrival to Union C.I., he and Inspector Randall Merritt were escorted to the Urgent Care Area where they observed the body of Inmate Snead lying in the middle of the floor [REDACTED]. Sergeant Tony Hull was providing security over the body. Inmate Snead [REDACTED] (Snead) [REDACTED] (Snead) [REDACTED]. Captain John Sandlin indicated he (Snead) was on the floor due [REDACTED].





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Inspector Ortiz reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and administrative issues were not identified.