

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 17-18254**



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



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**Case Number:** 17-18254

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Latricia Ruiz

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

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Michael Ortiz

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 10-13-2017

**Complaint Against:** Deceased- Inmate Jamie Godsey DC# R40789

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

**Complainant:** Sergeant Richard Barrows

**Outside Agency Case #:** FM-37-0028

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

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Undetermined / Other Death

**Confidential Medical Information Included:** \_\_\_ Yes    X No

**Whistle-Blower Investigation:** X Yes    \_\_\_ No

**Chief Inspector General Case Number:** None



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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 October 11, 2017, at approximately 11:49 p.m., Senior Inspector Latricia Ruiz was dispatched by On-call Inspector Supervisor Daryl McCasland to report to Charlotte Correctional Institution (CI) in reference to an inmate death. On October 11, 2017, at 11:07 p.m., Inmate Jamie Godsey DC# R40789 was pronounced deceased [REDACTED] at Charlotte CI [REDACTED]. This allegation was assigned as a Death Investigation-Investigative Assist to Inspector Latricia Ruiz on October 13, 2017. Florida Department of Law Enforcement is the lead investigating agency. FDLE #FM-37-0028

**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 October 11, 2017, at approximately 10:25 p.m., Correctional Officer Christian Owen was present in the officer's station, when he informed Sergeant Barrows that there was possibly [REDACTED] inmate in cell G- 3111. At that time, Sergeant Richard Barrows was in quad 2 of G dorm conducting roster count. Sergeant Barrows departed Quad 2 and proceeded to Quad 3 [REDACTED] the inmate housed in cell G- 3111 and found Inmate Jamie Godse [REDACTED] in G-3111. Sergeant Barrows attempted to wake Inmate Godsey by shaking him. Sergeant Barrows [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Inmate Godsey. At that time, Sergeant Barrows activated A1 response team to respond to G Dorm.

Once assistance arrived to G Dormitory, Inmate Godsey [REDACTED] at Charlotte Correctional Institution by security staff.

Upon arrival [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on Inmate Godsey.

Inmate Godsey [REDACTED] fully clothed with the exception of his bare feet. According [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Inmate Godsey [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] of Inmate Godsey's [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] arrived, taking over the situation. At that point [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Inmate Godsey. Inmate Godsey [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] At that time, [REDACTED] at Bay Front Punta Gorda was contacted and  
briefed on Inmate Godsey's [REDACTED]. At approximately 11:07 p.m., Inmate Godsey was pronounced  
decease [REDACTED] at Bay Front Punta Gorda.

Florida Department of Law Enforcement was (FDLE) was also notified of Inmate Godsey's death. Special Agents Michael Ortiz was primary on this investigation.

Senior Inspector Ruiz entered medical with FDLE Special Agents Michael Ortiz, Cale Stevens, David Staley, Ronald MCardle and Supervisor Tracy Manher to view and photograph Inmate Godsey's body. [REDACTED].



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FDLE Supervisor Manher notified Office of the Medical Examiner District 22 of Inmate Godsey's death.

Office of the Medical Examiner District 22, Investigator Gregory Scharf arrived and viewed Inmate Godsey's body, [REDACTED] Photographs were taken of Inmate Godsey's body.

Alfred Zuck and Richard Kaufman with D & L Removal and Transport arrived for removal of Inmate Godsey's body.

Special Agent Michael Ortiz signed Investigative Demand. Agent Ortiz received one (1) [REDACTED], one (1) log from A Dormitory, one (1) Control Room log, one (1) Inmate Roster for G Dormitory [REDACTED].

Later, Senior Inspector Ruiz entered G-dormitory with FDLE Special Agents Michael Ortiz, Cale Stevens, David Staley, Ronald Mccardle and Supervisor Tracy Manher to photograph and search cell G3111 and G3108. Note: Inmate Godsey [REDACTED] in cell G3111, however, Inmate Godsey was assigned to cell G3108.

FDLE Special Agents began staff and inmate interviews.

On October 12, 2017, at approximately 1:00 p.m., District 22 Medical Examiner Dr. Elise Arbefeville, M. D., conducted an autopsy of Inmate Godsey and was not able to find any immediate cause of death, pending toxicology.

Security staff completed all appropriate reports concerning Inmate's Godsey death. A review of the reports did not reveal any criminal, administrative, or internal policy violations by Department of Corrections (FDC).

[REDACTED] will be made a part of this investigative file.

The photos will be made a part of this investigative file.

On October 30, 2017, District 22 Medical Examiner Dr. Elise Arbefeville, M. D. Autopsy (report # 1980 17-A-106) on Inmate Jamie Godsey was completed. Based on all the information available at the time, it is the opinion of Dr. Elise Arbefeville that Jamie Godsey [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The manner of death is classified as an Accident.

On February 12, 2018, Agent Ortiz provided a copy of his closed FDLE Report Case FM-37-0028. Agent Ortiz's report revealed that during the course of this investigation, which included interviews of the cellmate, Correctional officers [REDACTED] the examination [REDACTED] and his cell, and a review of surveillance video, nothing suspicious was noted, other than the paraphernalia found and collected in cell 3-111.

According to Agent Ortiz's final report, the paraphernalia consisted of a round plastic dish, with ashes and small piece of burnt paper laying on top. Next to the dish was a cardboard toilet paper tube. The



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card board tube was stuffed with an unknown type of paper and small piece of metal pot scrubber. The recovered item was consistent with consuming/smoking illegal controlled substances. The cardboard tube would have been utilized to exhale smoke into, to lessen the odor and avoid detection by correctional officers.

No evidence was found to indicate Inmate Godsey was involved in any type of physical altercation or that he wanted to harm himself. The investigative findings were consistent with the autopsy findings that the death was due [REDACTED]

This investigation is closed.

No criminal or administrative violations were observed or discovered during the course of this investigation.

**VII. CHARGES**

**List alleged violations of Florida Law:**

Inspector Ruiz reviewed the investigation completed by FDLE, and no criminal or administrative violations were observed or discovered during the course of this investigation.

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during FDLE's investigation, it is the recommendation of FDLE Special Agent Michael Ortiz, no criminal violations were discovered during this investigation, this case, be termed as follows:

1. Exceptionally Cleared