

# Florida Department of Corrections



## Office of the Inspector General

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION  
INVESTIGATIVE ASSIST  
CASE # 18-19751**



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



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**Case Number:** 18-19751

**OIG Inspector:** Inspector Greg Fulcher

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

**Outside Agency Investigator:** Special Agent Steve Harris

**Date Assigned or Initiated:** 11-15-2018

**Complaint Against:** N/A

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

**Complainant:** N/A

**Outside Agency Case #:** FM-37-0044

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

**PREA Number:** N/A

**Classification of Incident:** Inmate Death Investigation (Accidental)

**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 November 15, 2018, the Office of Inspector General received MINS complaint #893561 that indicated on November 14, 2018, at Okeechobee Correctional Institution (C.I.), Inmate Shane Brigham DC# W38863 was pronounced deceased [REDACTED] at Okeechobee C.I. Brigham was discovered [REDACTED] in his assigned cell, #E1210. Correctional [REDACTED] responded [REDACTED] Brigham, [REDACTED] arrived. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement responded as the lead investigative agency. On November 16, 2018, this investigative assist was assigned to Inspector Greg Fulcher.

**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 November 10, 2018, at approximately 4:30 p.m., On-call Inspector Supervisor Daryl McCasland contacted On-call Inspector Greg Fulcher reference an inmate death, Inmate Shane Brigham DC# W33863, at Okeechobee Correctional Institution (C.I.). Brigham was housed in general population in E-Dormitory, in a two-man cell #E-1210. Brigham was discovered by fellow dormitory inmates to be in [REDACTED] due to an unknown issue(s). Inmates notified security staff as to Brigham's situation. Correctional Sergeant Jon Wilson responded to Brigham's cell. Sergeant Wilson discovered Brigham [REDACTED] (At the time of the incident, Brigham was in the cell alone). Sergeant Wilson radioed [REDACTED] and assistance. Sergeant Wilson [REDACTED] Brigham. [REDACTED] were contacted and responded. [REDACTED] arrived and took [REDACTED] Brigham. Brigham was subsequently pronounced deceased [REDACTED] Brigham's body. Supervisor McCasland advised he would notify the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Brigham was pronounced deceased [REDACTED] at 3:34 p.m.

Supervisor McCasland reported the incident to FDLE Watch Desk at approximately 4:45 p.m.

*Brigham was a 29 year of age, white male, weighing approximately 150 pounds, and 6' tall.*

Contact was made with Okeechobee C.I., reference the incident. Officer in charge, Correctional Captain Elijah Rodriguez, advised the cell and body were secured awaiting law enforcement's arrival. [REDACTED] Brigham's body and it was suspected Brigham had ingested an unknown controlled substance [REDACTED]

At approximately 5:20 p.m., On-call FDLE Special Agent Supervisor Tracy Maurer contacted Inspector Fulcher for a brief of the known information. Agent Maurer advised Special Agents Steve Harris and Nathan Coogan would be responding to Okeechobee C.I., reference the death of Brigham.

Brigham's emergency contact, Heather Wilson, was informed of Brigham's passing by the duty warden, Ms. Shelia Kurzen, at approximately 5:30 p.m.



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At approximately 6:05 p.m., Agent Harris arrived at Okeechobee C.I., and began the investigation. Agent Coogan arrived a short time later.

At approximately 7:04 p.m., Inspector Fulcher arrived at Okeechobee C.I.

Investigative documents and information were gathered. Agents Harris and Coogan had completed processing the body and all associated interviews. Agents Harris and Coogan were processing the cell, E-1210. Upon arrival to the cell, Agent Coogan advised there was supporting evidence discovered in the cell to support Brigham was likely ingesting an unknown foreign substance into his (Brigham) body. The processing of the cell was completed and subsequently released to the institution for normal operation.

At approximately 7:30 p.m., the District 19 Medical Examiner's Office was contacted reference removal of Brigham's body for an autopsy.

Agents Harris and Coogan briefed Inspector Fulcher on the incident. There was no known or discovered information to indicate any criminal act occurred involving Brigham. The death did not appear suspicious.

Investigative Demand forms were completed and documents were obtained for the investigation and FDLE. Documents provided to Agent Coogan: bed roster, control room log, housing log, staff incident reports, and investigative demand forms.

FDLE departed Okeechobee C.I.

Inspector Fulcher identified Brigham's body and photographed the body. There was no identified [REDACTED] to Brigham's body.

At approximately 9:43 p.m., Tri-County Medical Transport arrived. Tri-County staffer, Mario Macias, took possession of Brigham's body for transport to the District 19 Medical Examiner's Office for autopsy. Mr. Macias was provided a Medical Examiner's Exemption form, a copy of Brigham's [REDACTED], and a release of body form. Mr. Macias subsequently departed without incident.

Upon Tri-County departing the institution, staff were briefed of the known information and the institution was released for normal operation.

District 19 Medical Examiner Investigator Vincent Recco advised the autopsy was tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 12, 2018 (no time).

Inspector Fulcher departed Okeechobee C.I., at approximately 10:11 p.m.

[REDACTED] of Brigham will be part of the official investigation reference Brigham's death.

On November 13, 2018, Doctor Linda O'Neil conducted an autopsy on Brigham. Doctor O'Neil noted [REDACTED] to Brigham's body. [REDACTED] Dr. O'Neil indicated a report and finding will be pending toxicology test results.



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On February 15, 2019, the District 19 Medical Examiner's Office provided a copy of Brigham's autopsy report, #M.E.# 18-19-954. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Doctor O'Neil's cause of death to Brigham [REDACTED] that the manner of death was listed as accident.

On May 10, 2019, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement provided a copy of Agent Harris' closed case report, #FM-37-0044. The report noted FDLE agents responded to Okeechobee C.I., reference Brigham's passing. No criminal or administrative violations were noted or discovered. There were no signs of foul play or use of force. Brigham's death was accidental [REDACTED]. The case report was closed.

**VII. CHARGES**

List alleged violations of Florida Law:

N/A

**VIII. CONCLUSION**

Based on the information gathered during their (FDLE) investigation, it is the recommendation of Inspector Greg Fulcher that due to no criminal or administrative violations discovered during the investigation, this case be termed as follows:

1. Closed - Exceptionally Cleared

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