



# Oregon State Police

## Incident: SP24048312

### Incident Details:

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Incident Type: Agency Assist  
Incident Time: 05/02/2023 00:00 - 05/02/2023 00:00  
Reported Time: 02/13/2024 09:49  
Incident Location: 11540 NW INVERNESS DR, PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH OR USA 97220 (MULT CO JAIL) (Beat: GHQ, Region: OSPSPECIALTEAMS)  
Incident Status: Administratively Closed  
Summary: In August 2023, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office requested the Oregon State Police review an in custody death investigation their agency completed on May 2, 2023.

### Involved Addresses:

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- 11540 NW INVERNESS DR / Dispatch address; Incident address / PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH, Oregon, USA 97220 (MULT CO JAIL) (Beat: GHQ, Region: OSPSPECIALTEAMS)

### Involved Officers:

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- Reporting Officer/Case Lead: KELLY, SARAH M / #36972 / OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
- Dispatcher/TC2: LUDWICK, DEREK / #35229 / DISPATCH

## General Report:

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Author: #36972 KELLY, SARAH

Report Time: 02/13/2024 14:06

Entered By: #36972 KELLY, SARAH

Entered Time: 02/13/2024 14:06

Narrative:

Multnomah County in Custody Death Case #23-19252

Decedent: Wood, Donovan

Date of Death: May 2, 2023

Cause and Manner of Death: Asphyxia Due to Smothering with a Plastic Bag/Suicide

Multnomah County Inverness Jail

- Scene description
  - Provide a scene description. Single cell, describe what he saw, to include plastic bag, medical interventions ect.
  - Who was maintaining scene log and medical intervention log that was photographed.
- Multnomah County QuickREPORT documents the following:
  - Booked into their jail on 12/20/2022
  - The arresting officer informed jail staff Wood had cut his neck in an attempt at self-harm during his arrest
  - A bandage was visible on the right side of Wood's neck
  - During the booking process it was determined Wood was a suicide risk and he was subsequently placed on constant suicide watch
  - Wood suffered a mental health crisis prior to arriving at the facility
- Multnomah County Sheriff's Office JCS Packet
  - Wood has been on and off suicide watch multiple times while incarcerated with Multnomah County
  - During a previous incarceration August 2022, Wood self-reported suicidal thoughts
  - During a previous incarceration April 2022, Wood self-reported being suicidal during booking
  - During booking in 2022 Wood reported he attempted suicide the previous month
- During a review of the photographs taken of Wood's property in his cell, specifically his written material I located the following
  - A suspected suicide note stating the following (this is not verbatim as his handwriting, spelling and grammar are difficult to decipher at times)  
The things I've done cant be taken back. I wish I had a choice. Maybe then it wouldn't of lead to this. I'm not asking for forgiving arms or anything like that. I don't even know why I'm wiring this. But I guess if the guards decide to investigate. Look no further because this is my suicide letter.

- Wood's writings attached to the mirror in his cell about death, dying, and negative self-worth/hopelessness.
- No record if AED was downloaded to corroborate Officer and medical staff statements and interventions
- During the interview with AMR paramedics Petersen and Morelli, they noted Deputies were rotating through with chest compressions and they were doing a "great job."
- During the interview with Ruiz, one of the Detectives comments that he understands unit 15 is the Mental Health dorm. I did not locate this information in reporting.
- During review of the video of unit 15, I noted it appeared three AIC's, to include Wood, were let out of their cells on May 1, 2023, at approximately 21:22 to clean the common areas of unit 15. Inmate Wood cells in at approximately 22:29:45 after cleaning is complete (this cell in is documented by Detectives). Wood cells in alone, alive, less than two hours before he is found deceased.
- No AIC interviews were completed.
  - One of the AIC's housed next to Wood was one of the inmates let out to clean with Wood. May provide information regarding Wood's demeanor.
- Photographs of AIC Wood's paperwork were included with the case file. I located a Confidential Forensic Mental Health Assessment completed on March 31, 2023, by Bridgetown Psychological (Wood's date of death is May 2, 2023, just over one month after). I noted the following:
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  - Information redacted per ORS 161.315(6) AND ORS 192.355(2)
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- Next of Kin notification documentation (According to MDI Crowson, LE notified NOK/family).
- Detectives checked through watching video the Security and Welfare checks were completed per policy but did not note the logs were correct as well (they were by what I could see).
- During the interviews of medical staff and Corrections staff the interviews were recorded. This does not appear to be noted in Lurch's report for the reader/reviewer's information to understand the description he provides are brief summaries of his interviews. Some information is left out as it may come across as repetitive, yet it corroborates the institution's response to this incident and treatment of the AIC. Additionally, during Correctional Officer

interviews, Lurch does not indicate in his report union representation was present.

- Multnomah County Medicolegal Death Investigator Jessica Crowson does note "handwritten notes observed that appeared to have content of a depressive nature." Crowson's report is descriptive and informative regarding her investigation.
- Detective Lurch included a phone call Wood made but did not address it in his report.
- Do jail staff complete an Unusual Incident Report of any nature regarding this incident? I talked with Kaer about this on September 8, 2023, and he said he would check in to it.
- Document updates on ME findings .
- Obtain medical records from the Multnomah County Jail.



# Oregon State Police

## Incident: SP24048313

### Incident Details:

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Incident Type: Agency Assist  
Incident Time: 07/20/2023 00:00 - 07/20/2023 00:00  
Reported Time: 02/13/2024 09:39  
Incident Location: 11540 NW INVERNESS DR, PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH OR USA 97220 (MULT CO JAIL) (Beat: GHQ, Region: OSPSPECIALTEAMS)  
Incident Status: Administratively Closed  
Summary: In August 2023, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office requested the Oregon State Police review an investigation into an incustody death their agency completed at the Multnomah County Inverness Jail.

### Involved Addresses:

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- 11540 NW INVERNESS DR / Dispatch address / PORTLAND, MULTNOMAH, Oregon, USA 97220 (MULT CO JAIL) (Beat: GHQ, Region: OSPSPECIALTEAMS)

### Involved Officers:

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- Reporting Officer/Case Lead: KELLY, SARAH M / #36972 / OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS
- Dispatcher/TC2: LUDWICK, DEREK / #35229 / DISPATCH

## General Report:

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Author: #36972 KELLY, SARAH

Report Time: 02/13/2024 14:18

Entered By: #36972 KELLY, SARAH

Entered Time: 02/13/2024 14:18

Narrative:

Multnomah County in Custody Death Case #2023-31547

Decedent: Pierce, Josiah Gayflor

Date of Death: 07/20/2023

Cause and Manner of Death: Fentanyl Toxicity/Accident

Location: Multnomah County Inverness Jail

Scene:

- Provide a total scene description. Single cell, what he saw, to include positioning of AIC, evidence of medical interventions, ect.
- Note in report that Dorm 16 is a Disciplinary Dorm. Was Pierce previously moved to 16 from 14 due to his suspected substance use the previous day?
- Who was maintaining scene log and medical intervention log.
- Cell was searched, evidence was collected and items were moved prior to ME's Office/MDI's arrival. Photos submitted with investigative packet corroborate the manipulation of the crime scene prior to the MDI's arrival. There are photographs in the body of the report showing the cell how it was found at the time of death. Photographs submitted by Detectives show the cell as it appeared after the search. Was the MDI consulted prior to the search? MDI John Kelly's report documents the cell as it appeared on his arrival, where the AIC's property looked like it was rolled up. Refer to ORS 146.103.

During a review of the Command Briefing, on Page 4, it states Pierce interacts with AIC's during a walk on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the date should have read July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Review of CAD information for call time information and response.

There is no record if the AED was downloaded.

Document medical history at the institution.

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office JCS Packet

- Pierce has been booked into the Multnomah County Jail 84 times
- Pierce's most recent booking process on 05/31/2023 noted he appeared to be under the influence.
- During Pierce's 80<sup>th</sup> booking process he notes he has been using heroin for 12 years.
- During the majority of booking processes according to documentation retained in Multnomah County's records, Pierce was frequently booked for drug possession to include possession of heroin, methamphetamine or cocaine and admits he will be detoxing several times.



- On January 2, 2018, on Pierce's 39<sup>th</sup> time in Multnomah County Custody, he disclosed an attempted suicide by overdose and was consequently hospitalized. During this same booking process, he noted he would be detoxing from heroin as well.
- During several booking processes documentation indicated he appeared to be high.

Documentation of Portland Fire and AMR responding personnel. In a previous death investigation AMR responders were interviewed. What is the expectation of detectives during this type of incident for first responders?

Was AIC Pierce's property searched for significant writings or paperwork. There is a photograph of a piece of paper with writing that was located on the cell table. The contents are not clear as the photograph is blurry.

The report does not indicate whether Detective Ferguson's interviews were recorded.

In the future, consider having medical staff interviewed instead of writing emails as they tended to be brief. If there is an issue with staffing levels, consider sending out a list of key subject matter points for them to address as most, in this case did not address if they knew the AIC or had previous contact with him for historical information.

Document in the body of the investigative report that cells had previously been searched due to an increase in the frequency of overdoses and controlled substance use in the correctional facility. Further, was Pierce's cell searched when he returned the previous day (July 18) from the hospital after he exhibited signs he was under the influence?

Consider including video from the incident the previous day where AIC Pierce was observed exhibiting odd behavior (humping the air and ground in a common area) and document he was subsequently sent out to the hospital for evaluation.

Interview trustee AIC's passing the lunch meal and cleaning the living unit prior to AIC Pierce's death. One trustee can be seen at times during CCTV footage interacting with other AIC's cell front and also passing items under another inmate's cell door.

It may be worth noting, medical personnel can be seen on CCTV, stopping at each cell front on the unit at approximately 12:52 PM. That staff member is accompanied by another medical staff member pushing a medical cart, escorted by a correctional officer.

Document AIC Pierce's phone calls.

Document AIC Pierce's visits.

Document emails included with the case file regarding fentanyl in the correctional facility, encouraging a formal investigation. This email was sent to Detective Lerch on July 19, 2023, at 1:09 PM, a few hours before Pierce's overdose.