



# Volusia County Sheriff's Office

## District Investigations Supplement Report

Case Number: 07-33431  
~~07-33421~~

**Incident Type:** Death / Undetermined

**Incident Location:** Volusia County Correctional Facility  
 1354 Indian Lake Rd, Daytona Beach, Fl

**Supplement Number:** 1

**Case Agent:** Inv. T.M. Blair

**Victim(s):** Comeau, Muriel Edna W/F 12-03-68  
 261 S. Orchard St, Ormond Beach, Fl

**Next of Kin:** Comeau, Donald W/M 03-11-67  
 261 S. Orchard St, Ormond Beach, Fl

**Other(s):** See Initial Report for detailed list

**Evidence:** See Inv. D. Dewees Supplement Report

**Narrative:** On 09-27-07 at 2318 hours, Inv. Blair was contacted by Central reference a death at the Volusia County Correctional Facility. Inv. Blair was advised that Inv. Agostinis was already on-scene, along with Sgt. D. Clark. Inv. Blair requested that the Crime Scene Investigator respond also.

Inv. Blair arrived on-scene at 0019 hours. Inv. Blair met with Inv. Agostinis and Inv. Dewees inside of the facility. Inv. Blair was shown the detention cell where the victim was found. Inv. Blair was advised that Officer Bauer (Volusia County Correctional Facility) found the victim as she was assisting with medication dispersal with VCCF Nurse Wisemore at 2218 hours. The victim was located in cell 11 in H POD. Inv. Blair was advised that the victim was seen hanging by shoelaces that had been tied through the upper bunk. Officer Bauer and Nurse Wisemore entered the cell, and held the victim up until the arrival Nurse Ross. It was at this time that Nurse Ross cut the ligature, and life saving measures began. Inv. Blair was advised that a "Code White" was given over the PA system. Inv. Blair was advised that CPR continued until Fire Rescue arrived and took over. The victim was pronounced at 2245 hours by EVAC personnel. Officer Bauer stood by the cell door and logged all personnel that entered the victim's cell.

Inv. Blair entered the cell and made the following observations. The victim was a white female lying supine on the floor. The victim was dressed in a dark colored t-shirt and orange colored pants. The victim had sneaker type shoes on, but the laces were removed. The victim had a dark

colored ligature that was fashioned from the shoelaces lying by her right arm. The victim had an IV in her right arm. The victim had an Endotracheal Tube in her throat with the airbag attached. The victim had two distinctive ligature marks around her neck. One ligature mark appeared to be horizontal, while the other deeper ligature mark ran in an upward line from the front of the neck to the back.

The cell had two metal bunk beds located inside. The top bunk did not have a mattress on it. The base of the top bunk had a series of holes drilled in it. Inv. Blair was advised that the shoestring ligature was tied through one of the holes. Inv. Blair did not observe any notes written by the victim in the cell.

Inv. Dewees then entered the cell and processed the scene and victim. After Inv. Dewees was through with processing the scene, Inv. Negrete (Medical Examiner's Office) conducted his initial investigation of the victim. Inv. Blair did not observe any other signs of trauma to the victim. After Inv. Negrete was finished, he took possession of the victim and transported her to his office for the pending autopsy.

Inv. Agostinis conducted a taped interview with Officer Bauer, which he provided to Inv. Blair. Inv. Blair conducted a taped interview with Lt. Sophie. See taped interview for complete details.

Inv. Blair conducted a taped interview with Sgt. Painter. Sgt. Painter is in charge of the female inmates. Sgt. Painter advised that she arrived for duty at 2000 hours. Sgt. Painter conducted a walk through of her assigned POD's. Sgt. Painter stated that she was aware that the victim had been discharged from a "suicide watch" prior to her making her walk through of her assigned PODs'. Sgt. Painter stated that the victim had been on previous "suicide watch" during her prior incarcerations. Sgt. Painter advised that she did not know if there had been any actual attempts or just statements made while she was in the facility. Sgt. Painter advised that once the victim talked with the Mental Health Coordinator, she was released from the "suicide watch," given her clothing back and returned to her cell. Sgt. Painter advised that after the victim was released back to her cell, she was put on a two hour watch because of disciplinary problems. Sgt. Painter stated that at 2046 hours she spoke with the victim. Sgt. Painter stated that she explained to the victim about her being on a "CWI" (Constant Watch), and her being a "Two Officer Full Restraint" inmate. Sgt. Painter stated that this upset the victim, but was advised this was because of her prior assaults on the facility staff. Sgt. Painter advised the victim that her paperwork would be reviewed by the administrative staff and special classification committee to determine if she was no longer a threat to the facility staff. Sgt. Painter stated that when the victim was arrested and delivered to the facility, the victim was placed on a "15 minute watch" because of her prior mental health status. Sgt. Painter stated that the victim stayed on this watch until still she went to 1st Appearance. Sgt. Painter stated that after she had talked with the victim, she continued on making her rounds through the other POD's. See taped interview for full statement.

Inv. Blair requested through teletype that the Next of Kin on record be notified by the Flagler County Sheriff's Office. Inv. Blair was advised that contact had been made with the Next of Kin (Diluzio, James). Inv. Blair then returned to his office and made telephone contact with Diluzio, James. During the telephone conversation, Diluzio, James advised that the victim was still

married to Comeau, Donald (N-1). Inv. Blair requested a taped interview be conducted. Diluzio, James requested that it be conducted at a later time in the day.

Inv. Blair met with Comeau, Donald, Diluzio, James, and Diluzio, Janet at Diluzio's residence in Palm Coast, Fl. Inv. Blair spoke with Comeau, Donald who stated that the victim had begun smoking "crack cocaine" awhile ago. Comeau, Donald stated that recently the victim and a male partner had broken into his residence and stole some construction tools to pawn. Comeau, Donald stated that on this date he was going to file for divorce from the victim.

Diluzio, James stated that the victim had called his residence for him to post her bond on this date. Diluzio, James stated that the telephone was not answered, because they wanted the victim to stay in jail and get treatment for the drug addiction.

Inv. Blair was advised that the victim had been Baker Acted by Holly Hill Police Department on 09-21-07.

On this date, Inv. Blair attended the autopsy of the victim. Inv. Blair was advised that at this time there were no other contributing factors to the victim's death. Inv. Blair was advised that the preliminary cause of death was suicide, and the manner of death was by hanging.

**Case Status: PENDING / AWAITING FINAL M.E. REPORT**

<b>Investigator:</b>	Inv. T.M. Blair <i>/Blair</i>	<b>DID:</b>	2349	<b>Date:</b>	10-31-07
<b>Supervisor:</b>	Sgt. R. Kelley <i>Sgt. R. Kelley</i>	<b>DID:</b>	2092	<b>Date:</b>	11-8-07