



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: April 18, 2022

To: Captain Anthony Paonessa, Commander
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office
Correctional Services Unit
651 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

RE: In-Custody Death – Andrew Armstead (DOB 2/25/1954)
SSO Report No. 2019-204534
Date of Incident: June 11, 2019

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Andrew Armstead while in the Sacramento County Main Jail. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office September 13, 2021.

Armstead was booked into custody at the Main Jail on June 10, 2019, at approximately 3:31 p.m. for violating his parole. During the initial intake process, Armstead participated in a required medical screening exam where the nurse concluded Armstead was fit for incarceration.

On June 11, 2019, at approximately 4:09 a.m., Armstead was moved from the booking area on the first floor of the main jail to a cell on the seventh floor. There was another inmate in the cell with Armstead.

Sacramento Sheriff's Office Deputy Kayla Pendley was conducting classification interviews of newly arrived inmates on the seventh floor. At approximately 12:31 p.m., Deputy Pendley noticed that Armstead had not exited his cell to wait in the nearby dayroom for his classification interview. Therefore, Deputy Pendley responded to Armstead's cell.

When Deputy Pendley arrived at Armstead's cell, Deputy Pendley looked through the cell window and observed Armstead laying on the top bunk facing toward the door. Armstead's cellmate was standing in the cell. Deputy Pendley observed the cellmate place an unknown object on the bottom bunk, then shake Armstead's arm. Armstead did not appear to move. Since the cell door was still closed, Deputy Pendley requested a control deputy to open the cell door. Once the cell door was remotely unlocked, Deputy Pendley opened the cell door.

Deputy Pendley directed Armstead's cellmate to stop shaking Armstead's arm. The cellmate informed Deputy Pendley that Armstead did not wake up when deputies called for his classification interview, but he thought that Armstead was breathing.

Deputy Pendley called out to Armstead by his first and last names several times in an attempt to awaken Armstead. Deputy Pendley also banged on the cell door with her hands and feet. Armstead did not move. Deputy Pendley pressed the emergency intercom button and requested deputies to respond to the cell. Deputy Pendley also directed Armstead's cellmate to exit the cell and wait in the dayroom.

After additional deputies arrived, Deputy Pendley checked Armstead's vital signs. Deputy Pendley observed that Armstead did not have a pulse. The deputies requested medical staff and Sacramento City Fire Department medics to respond to the cell. They moved Armstead from the top bunk onto the cell floor and began chest compressions. Shortly thereafter, they moved Armstead outside his cell to accommodate incoming medical staff and Fire Department medical personnel.

Additional deputies and jail medical staff arrived to assist at approximately 12:37 p.m. An automated external defibrillator was applied. Sacramento City Fire Department medics arrived at approximately 12:43 p.m. and continued medical treatment. Armstead was pronounced deceased at approximately 1:02 p.m. by Sacramento City Fire Department medics.

Forensic Pathologist Brian Nagao, M.D., of the Sacramento County Coroner's Office conducted an autopsy. Dr. Nagao concluded the cause of death was methamphetamine intoxication. During the autopsy, a sample of Armstead's femoral blood was obtained. The sample was tested by the Sacramento County District Attorney Laboratory of Forensic Services. The testing confirmed the presence of Amphetamine and Methamphetamine. Dr. Nagao concluded that based on the circumstances and cause of death, the manner of death was to be listed as Accident.

No evidence of criminal misconduct is presented or suggested in any of the supporting reports. Accordingly, the District Attorney's Office will take no further action in this matter.

cc: Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Matt Tamayo
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Sacramento County Office of Inspector General