



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: June 27, 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 – Ronn Harrison (DOB 4/4/1962)
SSO Report No. 2019-0040613
Date of Incident – February 5, 2019

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Ronn Harrison while in the custody of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office on February 5, 2019. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office February 4, 2022.

Ronn Harrison was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on October 15, 2018, for a violation of Penal Code Section 245(a)(1), assault with a deadly weapon, and five arrest warrants for failing to appear in court for violations of Sacramento County Code 12.52.030A, illegal camping. At his booking, he was medically cleared for admission into the jail. During his incarceration, Harrison's records indicate that on December 13, 2018, he was diagnosed with cellulitis of the knee. He was provided with antibiotics and wound care checks. On December 22, 2018, Harrison's records indicate he was clear of signs and symptoms of cellulitis.

On January 19, 2019, Harrison was transferred to the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center. On January 28, 2019, Harrison entered a no contest plea to a felony violation of Penal Code 245(a)(1). He was sentenced to serve three years in state prison.

On February 2, 2019, Harrison was still incarcerated at the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center. Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Deputy Nathan Gill was conducting a routine floor check at approximately 7:44 p.m. when he observed Harrison was weak and his skin was grey. Deputy Gill and Deputy Alex Tran escorted Harrison to be seen by medical staff. Harrison stated he felt sick for the past four days, but he did not notify deputies or medical staff because he thought he would get better on his own.

Harrison was evaluated by a staff registered nurse. Harrison responded to the nurse's questions. However, his oxygen levels were low, he appeared pale, he appeared to have trouble breathing, and his hands were shaking. The nurse attached a nasal cannula to increase Harrison's oxygen intake, but Harrison did not improve. Deputy Tran then requested Fire Department medics to provide care and transport Harrison to Kaiser Permanente South Sacramento Medical Center. Deputy Tran escorted Harrison in the ambulance. Harrison was alert and responded to the paramedic's questions.

At the hospital, Harrison was diagnosed with influenza, bilateral pneumonia, Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome, and sepsis. He was intubated to assist his breathing. Harrison's condition continued to decline. On February 4, 2019, Harrison's family consulted with his treating physician and the endotracheal tube was withdrawn. On February 5, 2019, at approximately 12:02 a.m., Harrison was pronounced deceased.

Upon Harrison's death, Deputy Tran spoke with Deputy Coroner Eli Carroll by telephone. Deputy Coroner Carroll also spoke with the registered nurse that extubated Harrison's breathing tube. After those conversations, Deputy Coroner Carroll determined that Harrison would be transported to the hospital morgue and Harrison's physician would be signing Harrison's death certificate. Dr. Dan-Vinh Pham Nguyen, M.D., listed Harrison's cause of death on the certificate of death as due to septic shock, pneumonia, and influenza. Neither an autopsy nor a toxicology analysis was performed.

No evidence of criminal misconduct by any member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office 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 Janae Galovich
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Sacramento County Office of Inspector General