



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: July 13, 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 – Duane Dietrich (DOB 11/3/1961)
SSO Report No. MJD 2019-0060943
Date of Incident – February 20, 2019

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Duane Dietrich while in the custody of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office on February 20, 2019. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office on September 13, 2021.

Duane Dietrich was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on February 6, 2019, on felony charges of violations of Penal Code sections 273.5 (domestic violence), 245(a)(4) (assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury), and a violation of probation.

Upon admission, Dietrich was screened by a nurse in the Main Jail and cleared for incarceration. The screening nurse noted that Dietrich was detoxing at the time of his admission.

At approximately 3:40 p.m. on February 7, 2019, Dietrich was sent to the medical floor of the Main Jail due to his experiencing high blood pressure and severe detox symptoms. Dietrich remained on the medical floor for eight days. He was cleared to leave the medical floor on February 15, 2019.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. on February 19, 2019, Dietrich was being moved to floor 5 West in the Main Jail. Before going into his cell, Dietrich told Records Officer Maricela Zamora that he was short of breath and was sweating. Dietrich was escorted to the medical floor for further evaluation. Medical staff then requested an ambulance respond immediately to the Main Jail as Dietrich stated he was experiencing severe chest pains.

Dietrich was transported by ambulance to Sutter General Hospital at approximately 5:14 p.m.

Sheriff's personnel remained with Dietrich in the hospital while Dietrich was receiving medical treatment.

At approximately 4:20 a.m. on February 20, 2019, Dietrich asked the attending nurse if he could use the restroom. Due to Dietrich's condition, the nurse brought Dietrich a commode to sit on so he would not fall.

At approximately 4:25 a.m., Dietrich became sweaty, pale, and unresponsive. The Sutter General nurse immediately called for assistance.

Medical staff moved Dietrich to a medical bed and began to perform CPR. Dietrich's pulse returned. Dietrich became alert but was disoriented. Medical staff administered IV fluids and oxygen to Dietrich.

At approximately 4:59 a.m., Dietrich again became unresponsive. Dietrich's skin turned pale in color. Medical staff again attempted to perform lifesaving measures, including performing CPR and utilizing an Automatic External Defibrillator device (AED).

Their efforts were unsuccessful. At approximately 5:24 a.m., Sutter General Dr. Keri Wenker pronounced Dietrich deceased.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Jason Tovar, a forensic pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Dr. Tovar determined the cause of Dietrich's death to be Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease. The manner of Dietrich's death was classified as natural.

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