



# Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

ANNE MARIE SCHUBERT  
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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 – Darrell Paul (DOB 10/1/1980)  
SSO Report No. 2021-13253  
Date of Incident – January 14, 2021

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Darrell Paul while in the Sacramento County Main Jail on January 14, 2021. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office February 4, 2022.

Inmate Paul was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on December 16, 2020. He was held pursuant to a federal hold initiated by the United States Marshal's Service.

On December 31, 2020, Paul complained of chest pain and was transported by ambulance to Sutter General Hospital.

The hospital issued Paul an external defibrillator device. Paul was returned to the Main Jail on January 6, 2021, and housed on the medical floor, known as 2 Medical.

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, jail medical staff requested that Paul be moved to unit 2 East, Cell #311. 2 East is a section of the medical floor where inmates are housed for longer periods. Paul's move was completed on January 13<sup>th</sup> at approximately 4:31 p.m.

At approximately 10:34 p.m., Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Deputy Gerardo Santos was told by jail medical staff that Paul needed to be moved back to the main medical floor as the signal on Paul's defibrillator device was weak.

Deputy Santos went to Cell #311 and informed Paul he would be returning to the primary medical floor. Paul told Deputy Santos he did not want to move and did not want to wear the defibrillator. After speaking with Deputy Santos, Paul agreed to move and to continue to wear the defibrillator.

At approximately 11:04 p.m., Paul told Deputy Tory Crowder he wished to return to his cell in 2 East. Deputy Crowder noticed that Paul had removed the defibrillator device.

At approximately 11:10 p.m., Deputy Santos and jail nursing staff arrived at Paul's cell to check his vitals. Paul had removed the defibrillator and refused requests to put it back on. Nursing staff checked Paul's vital signs and filled out a form documenting Paul's refusal to wear the defibrillator.

Paul's cell was checked hourly by Deputies Crowder or Santos for the next five hours. Nothing out of the ordinary was noted.

At approximately 5:02 a.m. on January 14<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Crowder arrived at Paul's cell with medical staff to serve breakfast and to check Paul's blood sugar level.

Paul did not respond to Deputy Crowder's efforts to wake him. Deputy Crowder and medical staff did not observe any signs that Paul was breathing. Deputy Crowder noted that Paul's cell was orderly and there were no immediate signs of distress.

Deputy Crowder and a jail nurse entered Paul's cell. Paul was not breathing and did not have a detectible pulse. Deputy Crowder noted that Paul's skin was pale, and his lips had a bluish tint.

Deputy Crowder asked Deputy Santos to request an ambulance to respond Code 3.<sup>1</sup> Lifesaving measures were immediately begun, including performing chest compressions and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator.

At approximately 5:16 a.m., Sacramento Fire Department personnel arrived and took over all resuscitation efforts.

At approximately 5:36 a.m., Paul was pronounced deceased by Fire Department personnel.

Surveillance video of the exterior of Paul's cell on the medical floor was reviewed. It depicts events consistent with how they are described above.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Jason P. Tovar, M.D., a forensic pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Dr. Tovar determined Paul's cause of death to be Hypertensive Cardiovascular Disease. He classified Paul's manner of death as natural.

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 Janae Galovich  
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli  
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office

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<sup>1</sup> Code 3 indicates to consider the call an emergency response and proceed immediately, including utilizing emergency lights and siren as reasonably necessary.

Sacramento County Office of Inspector General