



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

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Date: October 3, 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 – Karl Raymond Hutton (DOB 6/12/1959)
SSO Report No. 2021-159244
Date of Incident – May 28, 2021

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Karl Raymond Hutton while in the Sacramento County Main Jail on May 28, 2021. The case was submitted to the District Attorney's Office on August 1, 2022.

Hutton was arrested and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on January 17, 2016. He was charged with a violation of California Penal Code section 187(a), murder. Hutton was transferred to Napa State Hospital on February 16, 2018, after being found incompetent to stand trial. Hutton was returned to the Main Jail on April 13, 2019, as a "non-restorable patient." Hutton was thereafter held in the Main Jail under a Murphy Conservatorship since July 9, 2020.¹

In May of 2021, Hutton was housed in Cell 310 on Floor 2 East due to his psychiatric condition and dementia. Floor 2 East is a medical housing unit. Hutton did not have a cellmate.

On May 28, 2021, at approximately 2:54 p.m., Sacramento County Sheriff Deputy Jennifer Bland was working as a Floor/Control Officer on Floor 2 East. Deputy Bland conducted a cell check of all the inmates in the unit, including Cell 310.

At approximately 3:10 p.m., an inmate worker served trays of food to all the inmates in the unit, including Hutton. The inmate worker noted that Hutton was awake at the time.

At approximately 3:50 p.m., Deputy Bland conducted another cell check. She shined her

¹ A Murphy's Conservatorship is a conservator arrangement specifically provided for criminal defendants who have been found incompetent to stand trial under Penal Code section 1370. A Murphy's Conservatorship may be established when the defendant represents a substantial danger of physical harm to others by reason of a mental disease, defect, or disorder.

flashlight into each cell. As she approached Cell 310, she saw that Hutton's light was off. She stopped to check on Hutton's welfare.

As she did so, Deputy Bland observed Hutton lying face-up on the floor of his cell. She saw that Hutton was not moving. She also saw his food tray was on his bunk, but most of the food was strewn around the cell.

Deputy Bland knocked on the cell door and called Hutton's name. Hutton did not respond. She noticed that Hutton had soiled himself. Deputy Bland ran to the nurses' station for assistance. She told jail medical staff and Deputy Jared Paulin her observations. She remained at the control desk as Deputy Paulin and nursing staff responded to Hutton's cell. Deputy Bland unlocked Hutton's cell from the control desk so that Deputy Paulin and two nurses could enter.

Deputy Paulin saw Hutton laying on the floor with his head between the toilet and his bunk. Hutton was not breathing and not responding to Deputy Paulin or the nurses.

Deputy Paulin and the nurses moved Hutton out of the cell so they would have more room to care for him. The nurses could not locate his pulse. There was no sign of trauma to Hutton's body. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation was started immediately, and Code 3 Fire Department response was requested.² An Automated External Defibrillator device was connected to Hutton's chest.

Emergency personnel from the Sacramento Fire Department arrived at approximately 3:58 p.m. and assumed responsibility for all resuscitation efforts. At approximately 4:22 p.m., Hutton was pronounced deceased by firefighter Kelyn Lampkin.

Jail surveillance video depicts the events as described above.

The Sacramento County Department of Health Services medical records indicate that Hutton had a history of dementia and traumatic brain injury.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Irfan Chaudhary, a certified pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. The cause of death was described as Asphyxia due to choking. Dr. Chaudhary found that Hutton's upper airway was obstructed with food. The manner of death was 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 Janae Galovich
Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Quis Formoli
Kimberly Gin, Sacramento County Coroner's Office
Francine Tournour, Sacramento County Office of Inspector General

² Code 3 means to consider the call an emergency and to respond immediately, including utilizing emergency lights and siren as reasonably necessary.