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Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO  
District Attorney

**DATE:** September 7, 2023

**TO:** Captain Vanessa Vaden, 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 – Keith Still (DOB 9/30/87)  
SSO Report No. 23-472  
Date of Incident – 01/01/23

The above case was referred to this office for the review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Keith Still at the Sacramento County Main Jail on January 1, 2023.

Still was transferred from the Alameda County Jail and booked into the Sacramento County Main Jail on June 1, 2022. He was charged with a felony violation of California Penal Code section 245(a)(4) (assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury).

Still was found incompetent to stand trial pursuant to Penal Code section 1368 and was pending transportation to a mental health state hospital.

Still was diagnosed with renal failure and his body was not responding to treatment. He was also receiving dialysis treatment.

Still had multiple outside doctor's appointments and hospital admissions, including four separate admissions from November 26, 2022, to January 1, 2023.

At approximately 4:29 a.m. on January 1, 2023, Still returned to the Mail Jail from the U.C. Davis Medical Center. He was placed in cell 2E 308 as the sole occupant.

At approximately 9:25 a.m., Still came to his cell door to receive his medication from a jail nurse during the morning pill call. Sacramento Sheriff Deputy Nathaniel Green noticed Still's right arm looked swollen and asked him if he felt okay. Still said he was fine and took all the assigned medication.

At approximately 10:35 a.m., Deputy Green observed Still standing at his cell door receiving his lunch from an inmate worker.

At approximately 10:44 a.m., Deputy Green observed Still lying down on his bunk during his mandatory hourly security check. Still appeared to be resting normally.

At approximately 11:37 a.m., an inmate worker opened Still's cell door to give him an additional food tray. The inmate worker placed the food tray on the floor and closed the cell door. The inmate worker later reported that Still was alert and told him to place the tray on the floor.

At approximately 11:45 a.m., Deputy Green observed Still lying face down on the floor of his cell during another security check. Deputy Green requested the nurse to assist him in checking Still.

At approximately 11:49 a.m., Deputy Green retrieved a wheelchair and entered the 300 pod with the nurse. Deputy Green and the nurse attempted to wake up Still. Using the emergency button in the cell, Deputy Green requested additional nurses respond with emergency equipment. Deputy Green also requested "Code 3"<sup>1</sup> medical response and began administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

At approximately 11:52 a.m., additional medical staff arrived and assisted in providing medical care to Still.

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Sacramento Fire Department personnel arrived and took over administering CPR. Still was removed from the cell and brought into the dayroom of the pod to receive additional medical care.

At approximately 12:21 p.m., a Sacramento Fire Department paramedic pronounced Still deceased.

Other inmates in the surrounding cells were interviewed. One inmate stated he observed Still "dead" but never reported it. No other inmates reported seeing or hearing anything unusual.

Jail surveillance video was reviewed. The video depicts the events consistently with the description above.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Jiemin Zhou, a pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Dr. Zhou determined Still's cause of death to be end-stage renal disease due to hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease. The manner of death was classified as natural.

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<sup>1</sup> Code 3 indicates to consider the call an emergency and to immediately respond with lights and siren as reasonably necessary.

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 Sheriff Lieutenant Janae Galovich  
Rosa A. Vega, Sacramento County Coroner's Office  
Francine Tournour, Sacramento County Office of Inspector General