



Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

THIEN HO
District Attorney

Date: December 18, 2023

To: Captain Matthew Owens, 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 – Kevin Scott Dresdner (D.O.B. 10/29/1966)
SSO Report No. 2021-289492
Date of Death – September 20, 2021

The above case was referred to this office for review of the circumstances surrounding the death of inmate Kevin Scott Dresdner while in the custody of the Sacramento County Main Jail on September 20, 2021.

On August 10, 2021, Dresdner was booked into the Main Jail. Dresdner was charged with a violation of parole and was due to be released on September 24, 2021.

On September 20, Dresdner was housed in cell #328 in the 300 Pod. At approximately 8:51 p.m., Sheriff's Office Deputy Key Lor observed Dresdner in his cell. Dresdner received and swallowed his medications provided to him by jail staff. According to Deputy Lor, Dresdner appeared fine at this time.

At approximately 11:15 p.m., Dresdner's cellmate pushed the emergency button and indicated Dresdner was not breathing. Deputy Steven Craft was conducting another cell check when a control room deputy asked him to check on Dresdner. Deputy Craft arrived and asked Dresdner's cellmate to exit the cell. Dresdner was lying down on his back on the bottom bunk. Dresdner was cold to the touch. Deputy Craft did not detect a pulse.

Deputy Craft requested emergency medical personnel to respond to the cell. He immediately began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Deputy Craft and Deputy Lor removed Dresdner from the cell to allow more room to perform CPR. Main Jail nursing staff responded and assisted with CPR until they were relieved by medics from the Sacramento Fire Department.

Sgt. Kenneth Shelton assisted with performing life-saving measures by inserting a breathing tube in Dresdner's throat. Prior to inserting the tube, Sgt. Shelton observed a large amount of pooled blood present in Dresdner's throat and Dresdner's tongue blocking his airway.

The Fire Department medics arrived at approximately 11:27 p.m. and immediately continued life saving measures to Dresdner. The Fire Department pronounced Dresdner deceased at approximately 11:49 p.m.

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Irfan Chaudhry, a pathologist with the Sacramento County Coroner's Office. Dr. Chaudhry classified the cause of death as undetermined. Toxicology results showed the presence of pharmaceutical drugs within normal limits.

Dresdner's cellmate was interviewed. He indicated he shared a cell with Dresdner for three weeks. He told detectives that Dresdner complained of not feeling well the past few days and was snorting coffee. Dresdner snorted coffee that day and traded his food for other inmates' prescription pills. The cellmate stated that Dresdner was not suicidal. Other inmates were interviewed and indicated Dresdner snorted coffee and had not eaten in 2-3 days.¹

Main Jail surveillance video was reviewed. The video shows Dresdner leaving his cell for the evening meal at approximately 3:29 p.m. Dresdner returned to his cell shortly thereafter. The video shows Deputy Lor giving Dresdner his prescribed medications at approximately 8:51 p.m. Dresdner did not exit his cell for the scheduled dayroom that began at 10:46 p.m. The video shows the remainder of the events consistently with the description above.

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

¹ Snorting coffee is believed to have a rapid energizing effect as the caffeine enters the bloodstream more quickly. However, it is considered unsafe due to a variety of potential side-effects, including infections and pneumonia.