

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Deputy Bureau Chief of Prisons, Paul G. Shavack, Public Information Officer

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Death of JTVCC inmate from non-COVID medical event

Smyrna - On Tuesday, June 23, Preston Tucker, a 64-year-old inmate housed at the James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) passed away suddenly at the prison after experiencing sudden medical distress.

At approximately 8:45 a.m. this morning, a medical emergency was called when Tucker complained of chest pain and shortness of breath. Prison medical and security staff immediately responded to the housing unit to render medical assistance. A transfer to the prison infirmary was initiated. Initially responsive and alert, during transport to the infirmary, Tucker became unresponsive and security and nursing staff initiated CPR until Emergency Medical Services personnel arrived. Despite continued lifesaving measures Tucker could not be revived. Tucker was pronounced dead by Kent County EMS at 9:45 a.m.

Tucker of Wilmington, Delaware, has been in DOC custody since 1987 and was serving a life sentence for Unlawful Sexual Intercourse with a minor.

His body was released to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death. Preliminary investigation by the Delaware Department of Correction has indicated that there were no suspicious circumstances and no foul play suspected at this time. Over the past 15 weeks there have been no inmates that have tested positive for COVID-19 in the building where Tucker was housed.

If you are a crime victim in need of assistance, you are encouraged to call DOC Victim Services at 302-857-5440.