

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

Presented by Jason P. Miller, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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DOC announces inmate death

Dover, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that **Fred J. Clanton**, a 61 year-old inmate with underlying health conditions from Sussex Correctional Institution, died on Tuesday, August 11 at Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus from complications from diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and COVID.

Clanton was initially tested for COVID-19 on July 4 and tested negative as DOC administered proactive testing of all inmates as part of its aggressive COVID-19 mitigation efforts after a cluster of cases was identified through proactive monitoring and testing. Clanton was among a group of three dozen SCI inmates with chronic conditions who were moved in early July to James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC) to be in a non-COVID environment. Along with all SCI inmates, he received daily symptom checks, including temperature and pulse oxygen level, and when he registered a fever on July 15 he was tested again and tested positive. After his positive COVID-19 test result was returned, Clanton was transferred to the JTVCC COVID-19 Treatment Center. As symptoms developed he was admitted to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus for treatment on July 20, where his family has been engaged in treatment decision-making. As Clanton's condition continued to deteriorate he was placed on comfort care. He was pronounced dead by hospital staff at 1:10 p.m. on August 11.

Clanton's body was released to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

Clanton, from Bridgeville, DE, has been in DOC custody since 2018 and was serving a three-year sentence for Drug Dealing. He was sentenced as an habitual offender, including a previous conviction as a sex offender.

[Last week DOC announced that 350 inmates who tested positive in July for COVID-19 have recovered from the illness.](#) Additional inmates have continued to recover, and **as of August 11 only 5 inmates statewide have active COVID-19 infection**, including 2 inmates who are hospitalized.

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

Get updated information about the DOC's response to COVID-19 and read previous announcements of positive COVID-19 cases by visiting <https://doc.delaware.gov>, and follow *decorrection* on Facebook and Twitter.