

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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DOC announces non-COVID inmate death

Dover, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that **Andrew A. Ayers**, a 58 year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), with a history of multiple significant chronic health conditions prior to his incarceration, died of acute respiratory failure on Thursday, April 8 at Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus.

Ayers, of Milton, Delaware, who has been in and out of DOC custody since 2001, has most recently been incarcerated since 2019 and was serving a six year sentence for Drug Dealing. He was admitted to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus on April 2, 2021 with altered mental status and hypoxia. During his course of hospital treatment he was placed on a ventilator. Per hospital practice Ayers was tested for COVID-19 and tested negative. As Ayers' condition continued to deteriorate, his family was engaged in treatment decision-making and he was placed on comfort care. He was pronounced dead by hospital staff at 3:04 p.m. on April 8.

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

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

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