

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 non-COVID inmate death

Dover, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced that **Richard J. Williams**, a 50 year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), died suddenly on Sunday, April 18.

Williams, who had been receiving treatment in the infirmary for an infection, and who had a past history of hypertension, complained of shortness of breath Sunday morning shortly before 6:30 a.m. Medical staff immediately began to administer oxygen and monitored his condition while he remained alert. At approximately 6:45 a.m. Williams suddenly stopped breathing. CPR was immediately initiated and paramedics were called. Additional measures were undertaken by paramedics upon their arrival, but were unsuccessful in reviving him. He was pronounced dead by a consulting Physician from Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus at 7:25 a.m.

Williams was fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by the DOC and had not tested positive for COVID-19 while in DOC custody.

Williams, of Wilmington, Delaware, has been in DOC custody since 2017 and was serving a 16-year sentence for Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony and Assault 2nd Degree. His 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.