

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 **Richard S. Tilden**, a 63 year-old inmate from Howard R. Young Correctional Institution with past medical history of hepatitis C and opioid use disorder died at Christiana Hospital on July 6.

Tilden was observed falling unconscious in his cell at 7:40 a.m. and a medical alert was issued. He was found to be pulseless and medical staff and correctional officers immediately initiated CPR. Additional lifesaving measures were undertaken by Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Paramedics upon their arrival. A pulse was regained and he was transported to Wilmington Hospital where he underwent emergency surgery to treat a rupture/perforation along the gastrointestinal tract. He was subsequently transported to Christiana Hospital in critical condition. His condition continued to deteriorate and Tilden was pronounced dead by hospital staff at 3:13 p.m. on July 6.

Tilden, of Wilmington, DE has been in DOC custody since June 29, 2021 and was being held in detention on \$5,000 cash bail on a Violation of Probation for a 2019 Burglary conviction. His body was released to the Delaware Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

Foul play is not suspected. A death investigation is being conducted by Delaware State Police and is pending at this time.

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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