



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Acting Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason Miller, Office of the Commissioner, Chief of Communications and Community Relations

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DOC announces inmate death

Georgetown, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced the death of **Michael Roark**, a 52-year-old inmate from Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI).

Roark, of Seaford, DE, was brought into DOC custody on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 on charges of 3rd Offense Driving Under the Influence, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and driving offenses. Upon his arrival at SCI he was placed in the prison infirmary for observation and medical assessment. On Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at approximately 4:20 a.m. Roark was observed experiencing medical distress. Infirmary medical staff responded and provided treatment while awaiting Emergency Medical Services transport to Beebe Hospital. Upon arrival to the hospital, Roark's condition deteriorated and lifesaving measures were initiated. He was pronounced dead at Beebe Hospital at 5:41 a.m. on September 13.

Delaware State Police was contacted and responded to SCI to conduct an independent death investigation. Roark's body was turned over to the 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](tel:302-857-5440).

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