

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Terra Taylor

Presented by Jason Miller Office of the Commissioner, Community Relations Officer

245 McKee Road | Dover, DE 19904 | Office: 302.857.5440 | Jason.miller@delaware.gov

DOC announces inmate death

Smyrna, DE – The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced the death of Joel Stevenson, a 57-year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC).

On Saturday, February 22, 2025 at approximately 2:25 a.m. during a routine security check Stevenson was found alone in his single-occupant cell unconscious from an apparent suicide attempt. A medical alert was issued and life-saving measures were immediately initiated by Correctional Officers, joined by facility medical staff. Emergency Medical Services Paramedics arrived and continued life-saving measures. Stevenson was pronounced dead at JTVCC at 3:03 a.m. on Saturday, February 22 by medical providers at Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus via the on-site Paramedics.

Delaware State Police were contacted and responded to JTVCC to conduct an independent death investigation. Stevenson's body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

Stevenson, of Newark, DE has been in DOC custody since 2013 and was serving a 50 year prison sentence for 2 counts of Unlawful Sexual Contact with a child.

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

-End-