

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 deaths of two inmates from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC). 98-year-old **Thomas Selby** died at the facility on Friday, July 10 and 48-year-old **Robert Rosa** died at the facility on Monday, July 13.

Selby had been housed in the prison infirmary for monitoring and care of significant chronic health conditions and had recently begun receiving hospice care. Selby was pronounced dead in the infirmary by medical staff at 4:54 p.m. on Friday, July 10. Selby, of Rehoboth, DE, had been in DOC custody since January, 2026 and was being held on \$40,000 bail on charges of Assault First Degree and Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony.

Rosa was found unresponsive and not breathing in his single-occupant cell during a routine housing check at 8:47 p.m. on Monday, July 13. A medical alert was issued and life-saving measures were immediately initiated by facility security staff, followed shortly by facility medical staff. Emergency Medical Services Paramedics arrived and continued life-saving measures. Rosa was pronounced dead at JTVCC at 9:29 p.m. on July 13 by medical providers via the on-site Paramedics. Delaware State Police were contacted and responded to JTVCC to conduct an independent death investigation. Rosa's body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death. Rosa, of Wilmington, DE, had been in DOC custody since 2014 and was serving a 30-year prison sentence for Robbery, Attempted Robbery, Possession of a Deadly Weapon During the Commission of a Felony, Possession of a Deadly Weapon by a Person Prohibited, and Aggravated Menacing..

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

-End-