

Investigations into Inmate Deaths

Alaska Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Ronald Hayes

Alaska Bureau of Investigations

House Judiciary Committee Monday, March 31, 2025



Notification & Scene Security

When an inmate death occurs, DOC staff notify the Alaska State Troopers.

For unanticipated deaths, DOC staff secure the area where the death occurred until Troopers and/or State Medical Examiner Staff arrive.



State Troopers Death Investigation

Troopers arrive and begin a death investigation—regardless of whether the death appears natural, accidental, or suspicious.

AST treats all unanticipated deaths as suspicious until proven otherwise.

AST will investigate the death in a similar manner that we investigate all unanticipated deaths that occur across Alaska.



Autopsy & Medical Examiner

The body is typically transferred to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Anchorage.

An autopsy is conducted by the Medical Examiner to determine the cause and manner of death.



Thank You

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