



NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Terra Taylor

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

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DOC announces inmate deaths

Smyrna, DE -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced the unrelated deaths of **Walter Ruark**, an 82 year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC), and **Stephen Winn**, a 62 year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC).

Walter Ruark, who had multiple chronic health conditions, was found unresponsive in his housing area during a routine security check at approximately 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 3. A medical alert was issued and life-saving measures were immediately initiated. Emergency Medical Services Paramedics arrived and continued life-saving measures. Ruark was transported via ambulance to Bayhealth Hospital, Kent Campus where he was pronounced dead at 4:06 a.m. on November 3. His body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death. Ruark, of Seaford, DE has been in DOC custody since 2007 and was serving a 109-year sentence for 6 counts of 1st Degree Rape, 7 counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Child, 5 counts of Possession of a Firearm/Ammunition by a Person Prohibited.

Stephen Winn was being housed in the prison infirmary where he was under hospice care for significant health conditions. On Sunday, November 3, Winn was found unresponsive and not breathing during a routine check of his housing area. Medical staff responded and Winn was pronounced dead at 1:48 a.m. on November 3. His body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death. Winn, of Newark, DE has been in DOC custody since 2001 and was serving a 47-year sentence for 1 count each of 1st Degree Rape, 1st Degree Kidnapping, 3rd Degree Assault, and Terroristic Threatening.

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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