



# NEWS RELEASE

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

### Commissioner Terra Taylor

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

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## DOC announces inmate death

**Smyrna, DE** -- The Delaware Department of Correction (DOC) today announced the death of **Russell Mealey**, a 74-year-old inmate from James T. Vaughn Correctional Center (JTVCC).

Mealey was being housed in the prison infirmary for monitoring and care of multiple chronic health conditions. On Saturday, September 14, 2024 at approximately 1:15 a.m. Mealey was found unresponsive and not breathing by medical staff who were conducting a check at his housing area. A medical alert was issued and life-saving measures were immediately initiated by medical staff. Emergency Medical Services Paramedics arrived and continued life-saving measures. Mealey was declared dead at the JTVCC infirmary by medical staff at 2:25 a.m. on September 14. His body was turned over to the Division of Forensic Science to determine cause of death.

Mealey, of Wilmington, DE has been in DOC custody since July 2022 on a Violation of Parole for 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Rape.

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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