



SHERIFF

KIT CARSON COUNTY

Tom Ridnour • Sheriff | Travis Belden • Undersheriff

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PRESS RELEASE

Damon Adams, DOB 10-7-90, was found unresponsive in his jail cell, by Kit Carson County Jail Deputies, at around 7am, on October 15th, 2017. Mr. Adams was an inmate at the Kit Carson County jail awaiting trial for multiple charges of Theft and Escape stemming from Kit Carson County cases 2017CR78, 2017CR80, 2017CR86. Due to the fact Mr. Adams was later pronounced dead at the hospital the Kit Carson County Sheriff Tom Ridnour called the District Attorney for the 13th Judicial District and requested a formal investigation be conducted.

The following are the findings of that investigation.

On October 10th, 2017, Mr. Adams, while an inmate at the Kit Carson County jail, attempted to commit suicide by hanging himself with a standard-issue bedsheet. However, he was unsuccessful, and that same day, he told jail staff about what he had done and at that time he was taken to the hospital to be evaluated. After receiving medical treatment on the 10th, Mr. Adams was also seen by a mental health professional from Centennial Mental Health, who determined that Mr. Adams presented a medium risk of suicide based on his failed attempt, but that he had told them he had a high desire to live and did not currently desire to die. Thus once he returned to the jail, Mr. Adams was segregated per jail protocol, in a cell where a staff member can see the inmate at all times, the cell has no toilet or sink, and the inmate was given very few items, no bed sheets and traditional blankets. Instead, Mr. Adams was given a "suicide blanket", which is essentially one that is made in such a way that it is virtually impossible to tear or tie it. Later that same day Mr. Adams was moved to another cell that had a toilet and a sink where staff could still monitor him 24/7.

On October 12th, Mr. Adams was moved and placed into a Pod by himself with a cell that had a toilet, sink, and a television and he was given a paper suit to wear for clothing.

On October 13, Mr. Adams was once more issued standard jail clothing and a wool blanket, though no other type of bedding was ever provided to him. In the early morning hours of the 15th, Mr. Adams communicated with jail staff around 6:15 am about routine matters, and by 7 am when the jail staff tried to serve him his breakfast, they found Mr. Adams in his cell, unresponsive, suspended from the wool blanket provided to him on the 13th. Jail staff preformed life-saving measures and called EMS to respond. EMS arrived and took Mr. Adams immediately to the hospital, where he later succumbed to his injury and was pronounced dead at 7:59 am.

The Kit Carson County Coroner took Mr. Adams to a forensic pathologist for an autopsy that was performed in Loveland, CO. on October 17th, and the preliminary manner and cause of death was suicide by ligature strangulation.

The District Attorney's Office finds no criminal conduct or negligent conduct on the part of the Kit Carson County jail staff, and believes all standard protocols and procedures were followed, despite Mr. Adams ultimate success in taking his own life.

Tom Ridnour

Kit Carson County Sheriff