



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

August 6, 2016

For information: Crystal Archdeacon, 503-378-2678, Crystal.L.Archdeacon@doc.state.or.us
Betty Bernt, 503-945-9426, Betty.A.Bernt@doc.state.or.us

Oregon State Penitentiary reports inmate death

An Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) inmate died unexpectedly Saturday in a local area hospital. As with all unanticipated deaths in state prisons, the Oregon State Police Criminal Investigation Division is conducting an investigation.

Tommie Rae Norton, 55, was transported off-site for medical care Saturday, August 6, 2016. He was pronounced deceased on at 3:27 p.m. He had been housed at Oregon State Penitentiary in Salem.

Norton entered Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) custody on July 15, 2016 on one count of identity theft out of Clackamas County. His earliest release date was February 11, 2018.

Next of kin has been notified. No other details are available at this time.

OSP is Oregon's only maximum-security prison, located in Salem, and houses over 2,000 male inmates. OSP is surrounded by a 25-foot-high wall with 10 towers. The facility has multiple special housing units including death row, disciplinary segregation, behavioral health, intermediate care housing, and an infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care. OSP participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including the furniture factory, laundry, metal shop, and contact center. It provides a range of correctional programs and services including education, work-based education, inmate work crews, and pre-release services. OSP was established in 1866 and, until 1959, was Oregon's only prison.



Tommie Norton

####