



News Release

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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Snake River Correctional Institution reports inmate death

An Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) inmate died unexpectedly early Saturday morning at the Snake River Correctional Institution (SRCI) in Ontario. As with all unanticipated deaths in state prisons, the Oregon State Police Criminal Investigations Unit is conducting an investigation.

At approximately 2:30 a.m., Saturday, February 27, inmate Sou Seng Saepharn, 42, was being evaluated by institution medical staff after complaints of not feeling well. During evaluation and preparation for transport to the hospital, Saepharn's condition worsened and CPR was initiated. Life-saving measures were not successful.



Sou Seng Saepharn

Saepharn entered DOC custody on April 4, 2009. He was sentenced in Multnomah County for one count of sodomy in the first degree, one count of sex abuse in the first degree, and one count of tampering with a witness. His earliest release date was January 16, 2026.

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

SRCI is a multi-custody prison in Ontario that houses approximately 3,000 male inmates. SRCI has multiple special housing units including disciplinary segregation, intensive management, infirmary (with hospice) with 24-hour nursing care, and an administrative segregation unit. SRCI participates in prison industries with Oregon Corrections Enterprises including a contact center, laundry, and sign shop. SRCI specializes in incentive housing, specialized housing, inmates with mental health/medical vulnerabilities, education and trades programs, cognitive and parenting programs, and institution work programs. SRCI opened in 1991 and is the largest correctional institution in the state.

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