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Prisoner Dies at David L. Moss Criminal Justice Center

Thursday, April 01, 2010

On Wednesday, March 31, 2010, inmate Bess Morgan Winfrey-Woodruff was pronounced dead at the David L. Moss facility, from what was believed to be a drug overdose.

Winfrey-Woodruff was incarcerated on Tuesday, March 30, 2010, at 22:45 hours (10:45 p.m.) after surrendering to a TCSO Deputy on complaints of a felony outstanding warrant for Application to Revoke (CF-08-5106) and a City of Tulsa municipal warrant for No Seatbelt.

Winfrey-Woodruff was processed into the booking area after being searched by Sheriff's Detention Staff, then seen by medical personnel for the booking medical screening process. Winfrey-Woodruff was placed in the housing unit F-17, which is a minimum security, open dormitory style female unit at approximately 01:20 hours. At approximately 04:30 hours a nurse arrived in the housing unit to dispense prescribed medication to other inmates when they found Winfrey-Woodruff unresponsive to verbal or physical stimuli. EMSA, Tulsa Fire, Sheriff's Office employees and the onsite medical staff attempted resuscitation efforts to no avail.

The initial investigation produced evidence that Winfrey-Woodruff had internally smuggled in prescription narcotics. Witnesses inside the female housing unit revealed to detectives that shortly after Winfrey-Woodruff arrived on the unit she produced a quantity of pills and began ingesting some of them then concealing the remainder of the narcotics within her body.

Winfrey-Woodruff's body was taken to the Medical Examiner's Office for further examination. The initial investigation has determined that the apparent drug overdose was self induced.

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