



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Investigations Division

TITLE: In Custody Death Investigations Guidelines		NO: B-100	
APPROVED: Commander Raul Murillo			
EFFECTIVE: 05/15/2008	REVIEWED: 03/24/2023	REVISED: 07/08/2020	UPDATED: 03/24/2023

POLICY

The Kern County Sheriff's Office is tasked with housing prisoners in several different facilities. The mere nature of housing prisoners takes on major responsibilities for their safety and care. With that in mind, whenever an inmate death occurs in a Kern County facility or in the custody of the Sheriff's Office, the Sheriff's Homicide Unit will respond and investigate the circumstances surrounding the death in the most efficient, effective, and comprehensive manner.

DIRECTIVE A

In the event of an in-custody death, per Detentions Bureau Policy C-900, Detentions Staff, in part, will preserve the scene and request Homicide Detectives to be notified, if appropriate, through the existing protocol for call outs.

DIRECTIVE B

Upon notification, the Homicide Unit Sergeant, or on-call Investigations Division Sergeant, will direct the appropriate number of Detectives, Crime Scene Technicians, and any other required resources to respond to the scene. The Homicide Unit Sergeant will ensure a complete and thorough investigation is conducted.

The Investigations Division Commander will be notified, via the chain of command, and ensure that the involved Chief Deputies have been notified.

DIRECTIVE C

Upon arrival, the Homicide Detectives will conduct a thorough investigation and conduct all interviews with involved staff and witnesses. Detentions Supervisors or Seniors are encouraged to get initial statements in order to make appropriate decisions during the incident, (DBPPM C-900); however, any in-depth interviews will be conducted by Detectives.

A master Crime Incident report will be initiated, and any Detention's reports will be forwarded to Detectives for inclusion in the final report. The final report will be delivered, via the chain of command, to the Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy by the Investigations Division Commander at the completion of the investigation.