

Clifford E. Riedel
District Attorney

201 LaPorte Avenue, Suite 200
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2763

Phone: (970) 498-7200
Fax: (970) 498-7250



ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Mitchell T. Murray

CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEYS
Gregory K. Biggers
Andrew J. Lewis
Robert J. Percifield
Lindsay W. Reilly
David P. Vandenberg

April 6, 2020

Sheriff Justin Smith
Larimer County Sheriff's Department
2501 Midpoint Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Re: Opinion concerning- Ms. Jenny Rene Roelfs
LCSO #20-1450
FCPD #20-1236
LPD #20-1236

Dear Sheriff Smith:

The criminal investigation surrounding the in-custody death of Jenny Roelfs has been completed and submitted to my office for an opinion. Pursuant to the Eighth Judicial District's Critical Incident Protocol, I am required to determine whether any person committed criminal law violations during this incident. The scope of this review is criminal in nature and necessarily limited by Colorado statutes to determine whether any criminal charge is legally provable beyond a reasonable doubt.

Larimer County's Critical Incident Protocol was in place and followed during this investigation. The investigation was conducted by the Critical Incident Response Team ("CIRT") for the Eighth Judicial District. Fort Collins Police Services led the CIRT team during this incident. Members of the CIRT team included personnel from Fort Collins Police Services, the Loveland Police Department, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, and the District Attorney's Office for the Eighth Judicial District. I have reviewed all reports, photos, videos, communication records, witness interviews, and findings by the Larimer County Coroner.

The following is a summary of the facts in this case as established by the above sources of information:

On February 18, 2020, Jenny Roelfs was an inmate being housed in the West Adam cell block of the Larimer County Detention Center. At approximately 0450 hours, Ms. Roelfs' cellmate notified detention deputies that Jenny Roelfs was unresponsive and bleeding from her nose. Deputy Coxon immediately called for the medical unit to respond. Additionally, Sergeant Darius Villareal and Corporal Tito Martinez immediately responded and called a Code 6 medical emergency. Jail personnel started life saving procedures, which continued until Emergency Medical Services and Poudre Fire Authority personnel relieved them. At 0549 hours, Jenny Roelfs was pronounced deceased by Doctor Kunan.

Sheriff Justin Smith

Page 2

Ms. Roelfs' cell and personal belongings were searched by CIRT Investigators. Drug paraphernalia and suspected heroin were located in Ms. Roelfs' cell and belongings. Additionally, during the autopsy of Ms. Roelfs, performed by the Larimer County Coroner Dr. James Wilkerson, a plastic bag containing suspected heroin was found in Ms. Roelfs' underwear. The Larimer County Coroner found no trauma or other injuries to Ms. Roelfs and determined the cause of her death to be accidental due to heroin intoxication.

There is no evidence to suggest that Ms. Roelfs' death was caused by detention center personnel. To the contrary, Larimer County Detention Center personnel acted quickly and professionally in their attempt to save Ms. Roelfs' life.

The criminal investigation of how the suspected heroin was introduced into the Larimer County Detention Center and how Ms. Roelfs came into possession of that heroin is on-going.

Respectfully,



Clifford E Riedel

District Attorney