



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

### **ADMINISTRATION**

3200 East Highway 34  
c/o 500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070  
Phone: (605) 773-3478  
Fax: (605) 773-3194

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE    Contact: Michael Winder 605-773-3478

February 26, 2001

(Updated with identity of inmate)

### **Penitentiary Inmate Dies of Suicide**

(Sioux Falls) - A South Dakota State Penitentiary inmate died of a suicide February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Inmate Christopher Masters, 29, was found hanging in his cell. Attempts to resuscitate Masters were unsuccessful and he died en route to the hospital. An autopsy by the Minnehaha County Coroner's office concluded Masters died of strangulation.

Masters was serving a 15- year sentence out of Minnehaha County for possession of a weapon by a prisoner at the time of his death. He had previously served a 10-year sentence for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree burglary out of Minnehaha County.

The Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated the inmate's death.