



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preliminary Autopsy on Inmate Death Completed

(Pierre) - A preliminary autopsy indicates a state prison inmate died of asphyxiation at the South Dakota State Penitentiary Saturday night.

Andrew Young, 23, was found unresponsive in his cell around 11:00 PM Saturday. Attempts by correctional officers and ambulance personnel to revive Young were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead a short time later.

The Division of Criminal Investigation was alerted and immediately began investigating Young's death. Young's cellmate, Christopher Fonseca, is a suspect in Young's death.

Fonseca, 29, originally was sent to prison for a conviction on Non-Sufficient Fund (NSF) checks from Pennington County. Since that time, he has received additional sentences for NSF checks from both Lawrence County and Meade County and for Aggravated Assault and Sliming from Minnehaha County. He also faces federal sentences for Conspiracy and for Threatened Use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction once his state sentences are served.

The Attorney General's Office will determine if charges will be filed.

The final autopsy report is expected to be completed in a few weeks.

Young had been serving a five-year sentence with two years suspended for Grand Theft out of Brown County. He was also facing another seven years for escaping from the Yankton Trusty Unit in May 2002.