



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Prison Inmate Dies

(Pierre)- An inmate at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls has died of apparent natural causes.

Gerald Thies, age 69, was found unresponsive in his cell at approximately noon Sunday.

Penitentiary medical staff initiated CPR, but efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

An autopsy is scheduled for today.

The Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating the death, as is the common practice with any inmate death.

Thies was serving a 25 year sentence for criminal pedophilia out of Pennington County.