



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Prison Inmate Dies

(SIOUX FALLS, S.D.)- A state prison inmate has died.

Inmate Walter Ellis died at a Sioux Falls hospital today of apparent natural causes.

Ellis, age 53, was serving multiple life sentences for first-degree murder out of Wisconsin. He was being housed in South Dakota under an interstate compact agreement. There are currently 27 South Dakota inmates being housed in other states and 28 inmates from other states being housed in South Dakota as part of the compact.

The Division of Criminal Investigation is investigating, as is standard procedure in the death of an inmate. An autopsy will be conducted.

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Our mission is to protect the citizens of South Dakota by providing safe and secure facilities for juvenile and adult offenders committed to our custody by the courts. To provide effective community supervision to offenders upon their release and to utilize evidence-based practices to maximize opportunities for rehabilitation.