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Inmate's death is investigated by N.O. coroner

The death of an Orleans Parish Prison inmate has been placed under investigation by the Orleans Parish coroner's office.

Michael Bruno, 21, was pronounced dead on arrival at Charity Hospital at 11:15 a.m. Wednesday.

Bruno was serving a two-year sentence on an attempted burglary conviction.

Coroner Frank Minyard said another inmate told prison authorities he saw Bruno willfully inhaling air conditioning refrigerant from a canister.

"We don't know yet what killed him, but we highly suspect that was the cause of death," Minyard said Friday.

The death will be unclassified pending tissue studies and toxicology tests on blood and urine, Minyard said.

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