# Man hangs himself at Orleans Parish prison early Saturday

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orleans-parish-prison-opp-exterior.jpg

Orleans Parish Prison was photographed in October.

*(NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune archives)*

A man in custody at the Orleans Parish Prison apparently hanged himself early Saturday. Authorities said Clifton Morgan, 28, died of self-inflicted asphyxiation.

New Orleans police arrested Morgan on charges of simple burglary and a probation violation, according to the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office. He was booked Sept. 17 and was given a mental health screening that day that placed him under suicide watch, officials said.

On Sept. 25, Morgan was taken to the LSU Interim Hospital for evaluation and was soon returned to the jail's psychiatric tier, authorities said.

He was later transferred to the general prison population, but asked to be removed from the tier. While awaiting transfer, Morgan was placed in a holding cell across from the watch commander's office. The watch commander discovered Morgan unresponsive and notified medical staff, who was unable to resuscitate him.

He was pronounced dead Saturday at 12:08 a.m.

An initial autopsy ruled the cause of death as asphyxiation, but an autopsy is planned by the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office, the sheriff's office said in a news release.

An investigation into his death is underway, authorities said.

"We are saddened, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of Mr. Morgan," Sheriff Marlin Gusman said.


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