OMB No. 1121-0094 Approval Expires 01/31/2019

Form CJ-9

DEATHS IN CUSTODY—2015
DEATH REPORT ON INMATES UNDER JAIL JURISDICTION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
AND ACTING AS COLLECTION AGENT:
RTI INTERNATIONAL

FORM COMPLETED BY:

Name		Title	
Official Address		Telephone	
City		FAX	
State	Zip	E-mail	

Instructions for Completion

If no deaths occurred in 2015:
- You do not need to report anything at this time.
- At the beginning of 2016, you will be asked to complete a summary form whether or not you had a death occurrence in 2015.

If you had more than one death in 2015:
- Make copies of this form for each additional death.
- Complete the entire form for each inmate death.
- Once your death records are complete, there are several ways to submit a death report:

ONLINE: Complete the report online at: https://bjsdcrp.rti.org
E-MAIL: bjsdcrp@rti.org
FAX (TOLL-FREE): (866) 800-9179

MAIL: RTI International, Attn: Data Capture
Project Number: 0213149.001.400.402.100
5265 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27690-1652

If you need assistance, contact Matt Bensen of RTI International toll-free at (800) 344-1387 or bjsdcrp@rti.org

What deaths should be reported?

INCLUDE deaths of ALL persons...

- Confined in your jail facilities, whether housed under your own or another jurisdiction
- Under your jurisdiction but housed in special jail facilities (e.g., medical/treatment/release centers, halfway houses, or work farms); or on transfer to treatment facilities
- Under your jurisdiction but out to court
- In transit to or from your facilities while under your jurisdiction

EXCLUDE deaths of ALL persons...

- Confined in facilities operated by two or more jurisdictions or those held in privately operated jails
- Under your jurisdiction but in nonresidential community-based programs run by your jails (e.g., electronic monitoring, house arrest, community service, day reporting, work programs)
- Under your jurisdiction but AWOL, escaped, or on long-term transfer to another jurisdiction
- In the process of arrest by your agency, but not yet booked into your jail facility

BURDEN STATEMENT

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, we cannot ask you to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The burden of this collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per each reported death, including reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering necessary data, and completing and reviewing this form. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this survey, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 810 Seventh Street, NW, Washington, DC 20531. Do not send your completed form to this address.

«AGENCY ID»

LOCAL JAIL INMATE DEATH REPORT

1. What was the inmate's name?

LAST	FIRST	MI
Harmon	Elizabeth	

2. On what date did the inmate die?

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
0 6	0 8	2 0 1 5

3. What was the name and location of the correctional facility involved?

Facility Name: Spartanburg Co. Det. Fac.

Facility City: Spartanburg

Facility State: SC

4. What was the inmate's date of birth?

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
1 0	1 7	

5. What was the inmate's sex?

- ☐ Male
- ☑ Female

6. Was the inmate of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☑ No

7. In addition, what was the inmate's race? Please select one or more of the following racial categories:

- ☑ White
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Some other race

→ *Please Specify:*

8. On what date was the inmate admitted to a facility under your jurisdiction?

MONTH	DAY	YEAR
0 6	0 7	2 0 1 5

9. Was the inmate being confined in your jail facility on behalf of any of the following?

PLEASE PROVIDE A RESPONSE FOR EACH ITEM (a–c)

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
a. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement	☐	☑	☐
b. U.S. Marshals Service	☐	☑	☐
c. State or federal prison, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or any other jail jurisdiction	☐	☑	☐

10. For what offense(s) was the inmate being held?

a. CDV

b. RISISTING ARREST

c. PDC

d. DAMAGE TO COUNTY VEHICLE

e. INDECENT EXPOSURE

11. What was the inmate's legal status at time of death? *(For inmates with more than one status, report the status associated with the most serious offense.)*

- ☐ Convicted—new court commitment
- ☐ Convicted—returned probation/parole violator
- ☑ Unconvicted
- ☐ Other

→ *Please Specify:*

12. Since admission, did the inmate ever stay overnight in a mental health observation unit or an outside mental health facility?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☑ Don't Know

13. Where did the inmate die?

- ☑ In a general housing unit within the jail facility or on jail grounds
- ☐ In a segregation unit
- ☐ In a special medical unit/infirmary within the jail facility
- ☐ In a special mental health services unit within the jail facility
- ☐ In a medical center outside the jail facility
- ☐ In a mental health center outside the jail facility
- ☐ While in transit
- ☐ Elsewhere

→ *Please Specify:*

14. Are the results of a medical examiner's or coroner's evaluation (such as an autopsy, postmortem exam, or review of medical records) available to establish an official cause of death?

- ☐ YES → ***CONTINUE TO Q15***
- ☐ Evaluation complete—results are pending

  → ***SKIP REMAINING QUESTIONS AND SUBMIT THIS FORM—YOU WILL BE CONTACTED AT A LATER TIME FOR THE CAUSE OF DEATH***
- ☑ No evaluation is planned → ***CONTINUE TO Q15***

15. What was the cause of death? * *Please SPECIFY cause of death—it is critical information* *****

☐ Illness—Exclude AIDS-related deaths [*Specify*] →	
☐ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)	
☐ Accidental alcohol/drug intoxication [*Describe*] →	
☐ Accidental injury to self [*Describe*] →	
☐ Accidental injury by other (e.g., vehicular accidents during transport) [*Describe*] →	
☑ Suicide (e.g., hanging, knife/cutting instrument, intentional drug overdose) [*Describe*] →	HANGING BY USE OF OWN SHIRT
☐ Homicide [*Describe*] →	
☐ Other cause(s) [*Specify*] →	

16. Where did the <u>incident</u> (e.g., accident, suicide, or homicide) causing the death take place?

- ☐ NOT APPLICABLE—Cause of death was illness, intoxication, or AIDS-related
- ☑ In the jail facility or on the jail grounds

  [PLEASE SPECIFY] →
  - ☐ In the inmate's cell/room
  - ☑ In a temporary holding area/lockup
  - ☐ In a common area within the facility (e.g., yard, library, cafeteria)
  - ☐ In a segregation unit
  - ☐ In a special medical unit/infirmary
  - ☐ In a special mental health services unit
  - ☐ Elsewhere within the jail facility

    → *Please Specify:*
- ☐ Outside the jail facility (e.g., while on work release or on work detail)
- ☐ Elsewhere

  → *Please Specify:*

17. When did the incident (e.g., accident, suicide, or homicide) causing the death occur?

- ☐ NOT APPLICABLE—Cause of death was illness, intoxication, or AIDS-related

- ☐ Morning (6 am to Noon)
- ☐ Afternoon (Noon to 6 pm)
- ☑ Evening (6 pm to Midnight)
- ☐ Overnight (Midnight to 6 am)

18. Excluding emergency care provided at the time of death, did the inmate receive any of the following medical services for the medical condition that caused his/her death after admission to your correctional facilities?

- ☑ NOT APPLICABLE—Cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide, or homicide

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
a. Evaluation by physician/medical staff	☐	☐	☐
b. Diagnostic tests (e.g., X-rays, MRI)	☐	☐	☐
c. Medications	☐	☐	☐
d. Treatment/care other than medications	☐	☐	☐
e. Surgery	☐	☐	☐
f. Confinement in special medical unit.	☐	☐	☐

PLEASE PROVIDE A RESPONSE FOR EACH ITEM (a–f)

19. Was the cause of death the result of a pre-existing medical condition or did the inmate develop the condition after admission? *(If multiple conditions caused the death and any of the conditions were pre-existing, mark "Pre-existing medical condition.")*

- ☑ NOT APPLICABLE—Cause of death was accidental injury, intoxication, suicide, or homicide

- ☐ Pre-existing medical condition
- ☐ Deceased developed condition after admission
- ☐ Could not be determined

Please add any additional notes regarding this death here:

Changed Q13 from Elsewhere - Per Booking Holding Cell to "General Housing Unit" and removed Specify text.

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
REPORT OF INMATE DEATH

(Sections 24-9-35 and 17-7-10, South Carolina Code of Laws)
(Standards 1047 and 1049, Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities in South Carolina)
(SCDC Policies/Procedures HS-18.04 and PS-10.05)

1. FACILITY: Spartanburg County Detention Facility
2. NAME OF DECEASED: Harmon, Elizabeth SCDC# _____
3. HOME ADDRESS: _____
4. DESCRIPTION: DOB 10/17/ _____ HEIGHT 5'07" WEIGHT 170 HAIR Brown
   EYES Brown SEX Female RACE White SOC SEC # _____
5. ARRESTING OFFENSE(S): CDV; Resisting Arrest, P.D.C., Damage to County Vehicle; Indicent Exposure
   _____ SENTENCED ☐ PRETRIAL ☒
6. DATE AND TIME OF COMMITMENT: 06/07/2015 at 11:36 PM
7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF RELATIVE(S) OF THE DECEASED CONTACTED: Husband- by the Coroner
8. RECORD OF DECEASED INMATE'S PHYSICAL CONDITION UPON ADMISSION: Appeared intoxicted, violent (kicked window out of road deputy's car), minor cuts/abrasions.
9. CAUSE OF DEATH: Suicide
10. TIME AND DATE OF DEATH: 12:37 a.m. _____ p.m. 8 day June month 2015 year
11. NAME OF DOCTOR WHO PRONOUNCED DEATH: _____
12. NAME OF CORONER WHO ORDERED AUTOPSY: Coroner's Investigator Dwayne Corn
13. AUTOPSY PERFORMED BY: Dr. David Wren
14. NAME OF PERSON DISCOVERING DECEASED, TIME DISCOVERED, AND LOCATION WITHIN FACILITY: Deputy Heather Carroll 2353 hours on 06/07/2015
15. AT THE TIME OF DEATH: 689 (Actual Count) 30 (# of Officers on Duty)
16. WHEN INMATE WAS LAST SEEN ALIVE: 2314 hours on June 7, 2015

NOTIFY BY TELEPHONE AT: (803) 896-8502

MAIL OR DELIVER REPORT TO:

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
POST OFFICE BOX 21787
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221

Neal Urch
SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL MAKING REPORT

Major Neal Urch, Jail Director
TYPED OR PRINTED TITLE OF OFFICIAL

June 8, 2015
DATE OF REPORT

SCDC 8-2 (Revised July 1, 2011)

DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
INCIDENT REPORT FOR LOCAL DETENTION FACILITIES

1. NAME & ADDRESS OF FACILITY: Spartanburg Co. Detention 950 California Ave.; Spartanburg, SC 29303

2. NAME & HOME ADDRESS OF INMATE: Harmon, Elizabeth

3. DESCRIPTION: SS#_ _ DOB 10/17/ HEIGHT 5'7" WEIGHT 170 SEX F RACE W

4. ARRESTING OFFENSE(S): CDV; Resisting Arrest, PDC, Damage to Co. Vehicle, Indicent Exposure

5. DATE & TIME OF ADMISSION: 06/07/2015 @ 11:36 PM

6. NAME OF EMPLOYEE(S) INVOLVED:

7. DATE & TIME OF INCIDENT: 06/08/2015 @ 11:53 PM.

8. TYPE OF INCIDENT: Suicide

- ☐ Escape
- ☐ Attempted escape
- ☐ Riot/Disturbance
- ☐ Sexual assault
- ☐ Battery on staff member
- ☐ Battery on an inmate requiring medical attention
- ☐ Fire (if property damage in excess of $50.00; or evacuation of a cell or any portion of the facility; or medical attention for staff member or inmate)
- ☐ Serious infectious disease within facility for which medical protocol indicates or requires special procedures
- ☒ Other (describe type or nature of incident)

9. DETAILS OF INCIDENT: Inmate use shirt to hang herself from door hinge.

10. ACTIONS TAKEN: Inmate retreived from holding cell and CPR initiated, AED used; EMS Called and was transported to ER.

11. OTHER COMMENTS:

12. AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT: 389 (Actual Count) 30 (# of Officers on Duty)

NOTE: All such incidents should be reported by telephone ((803) 896-8502) to the Division of Compliance, Standards, and Inspections on the day that they occur; or, when they occur after business hours, they must be reported on the next business day. All deaths must be reported in writing within three (3) days, and other incidents must be reported in writing within five (5) days. Relevant facility/police reports(s) should be attached.

S/ Neal Urch
(Signature of Official Making Report)

S/ Major Neal Urch, Jail Director
(Typed or Printed Title of Official)

June 8, 2015
Date of Report

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

MAIL REPORT TO: **SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS**
DIVISION OF COMPLIANCE, STANDARDS, AND INSPECTIONS
POST OFFICE BOX 21787
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29221



SOUTH CAROLINA

Spartanburg jail officials cleared of wrongdoing in 2015 detainee suicide

Daniel J. Gross

Spartanburg Herald Journal

MAY 10, 2016 9:26 PM



Elizabeth Ashley Harmon *photo provided to the Spartanburg Herald Journal*

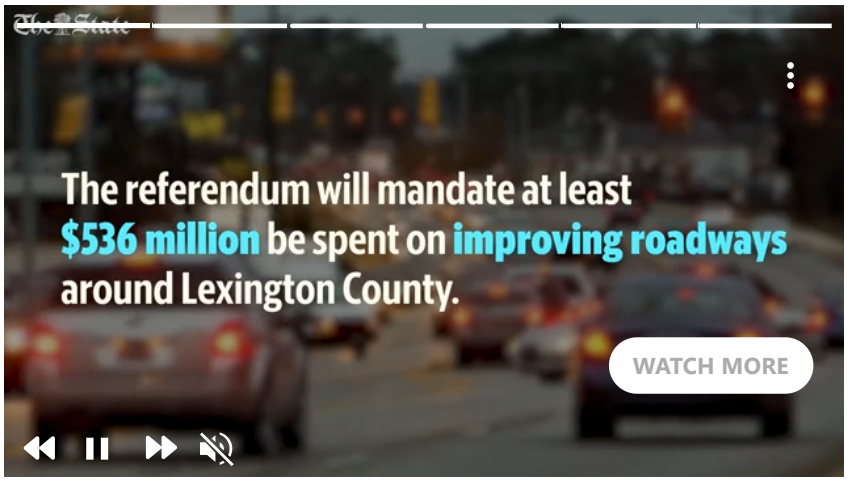
Only have a minute? Listen instead
Powered by **Trinity Audio**
1.0×
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Emergency equipment at the Spartanburg County jail was put to the test last year when a woman hanged herself in her cell.

It failed.

Officers at the detention center found Elizabeth Ashley Harmon hanging from the top hinge on a plumbing chase just 13 minutes after they last checked on her on June 7, 2015.

TOP VIDEOS



Lexington County voters to decide on 1% sales tax to fund

road projects

Jail staff knew Harmon, 34, had been hospitalized for a suicide attempt just weeks before coming to jail, according to a State Law Enforcement Division report recently obtained by the *Herald-Journal*. Nearly a year after her death, that report shows measures in place at the time that might have helped saved Harmon's life didn't work.

Jail officials now say some of the issues raised in the report are being addressed.

READ MORE

Harmon died in a holding cell after being arrested on criminal domestic violence and indecent exposure charges. Reports show an officer checked her into the holding cell at 11:45 p.m., and 13 minutes later she was found hanging by her jail-issued orange shirt.

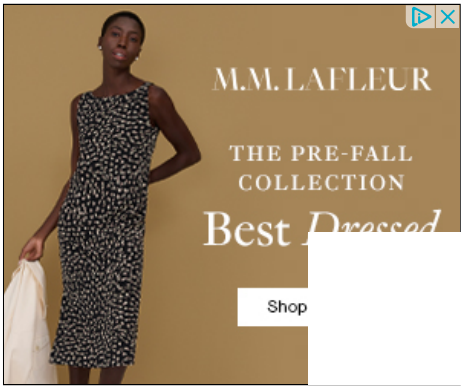
Harmon had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder and had been acting erratically during her arrest in a Boiling Springs parking lot, where she had been arguing with her husband, according to reports from the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office. She kicked out a patrol vehicle's window while being transported to jail and fought with deputies.

She was treated for cuts to her legs by an on-site nurse at the jail before she was placed in a holding cell.

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Harmon had been wearing a shirt with "a rope-like design," so officers made her wear a county-issued shirt. Her behavior had her placed on special watch, which requires cell checks every 15 minutes.

When Harmon was found hanging, officers brought her to the ground and tried to use an automated external defibrillator to revive her, but the device wasn't working, according to the SLED file. An error message stated, "please replace pads," even though the pads were attached, the report states.

"The AED was placed onto Ms. Harmon ... but never worked," the file states. "The AED kept saying the chest pads were placed incorrectly."

Another officer was notified of the emergency and used a red phone to call 911, the SLED file states. That officer tried three times to call for help, but the phone would not connect, the SLED report found. The officer eventually switched to another phone to call for EMS.

According to the SLED file, a deputy on duty at the jail had told a booking technician that Harmon had been admitted to a hospital for a suicide attempt a few weeks earlier.

Maj. Neal Urch, the jail director, said Tuesday he didn't think deputies were aware of the past suicide attempt. But such knowledge probably wouldn't have changed anything, as Harmon was placed on special watch anyway, he said.

"Regrettably, things do happen beyond their control," Urch said. Urch said he has not yet seen the SLED report.

The Sheriff's Office had requested a SLED investigation of the death, and the agency concluded that no criminal activity occurred.

The holding cell where Harmon died has not been used since the suicide.

Plans call for the booking area to be renovated, but any timeline for that work will depend on the availability of funding.

Architectural drawings are being created to "try and correct some of the different things we keep running into and to prevent this stuff from happening," Urch said. Once the drawings are complete, jail staff will have a better idea of the project's cost.

The plan specifically would redesign the doors that have hinges so they couldn't be used to assist a suicide.

"We have been working on plans to eliminate that being that way," Urch said.

The jail installed cameras in each of the holding cells in December 2015, six months after Harmon's suicide, so that officers could keep an eye on inmates at all times.

Jail staff are instructed to pay close attention to someone the first 24 hours they are in jail, Urch said.

"The ones that are serious about (suicide), you never know and it's just done," he said.

During the cell check before Harmon hanged herself, the woman was sitting with her head down, arms folded and back against the wall, according to the SLED file.

Kay Ward, Harmon's mother, said she still thinks about ways in which her daughter's death could have been prevented.

"It's just so hard. It's almost been a year and it feels like it just happened yesterday," Ward said. "They should have had safety issues in place."

Follow Daniel J. Gross on Twitter at @danieljgross.

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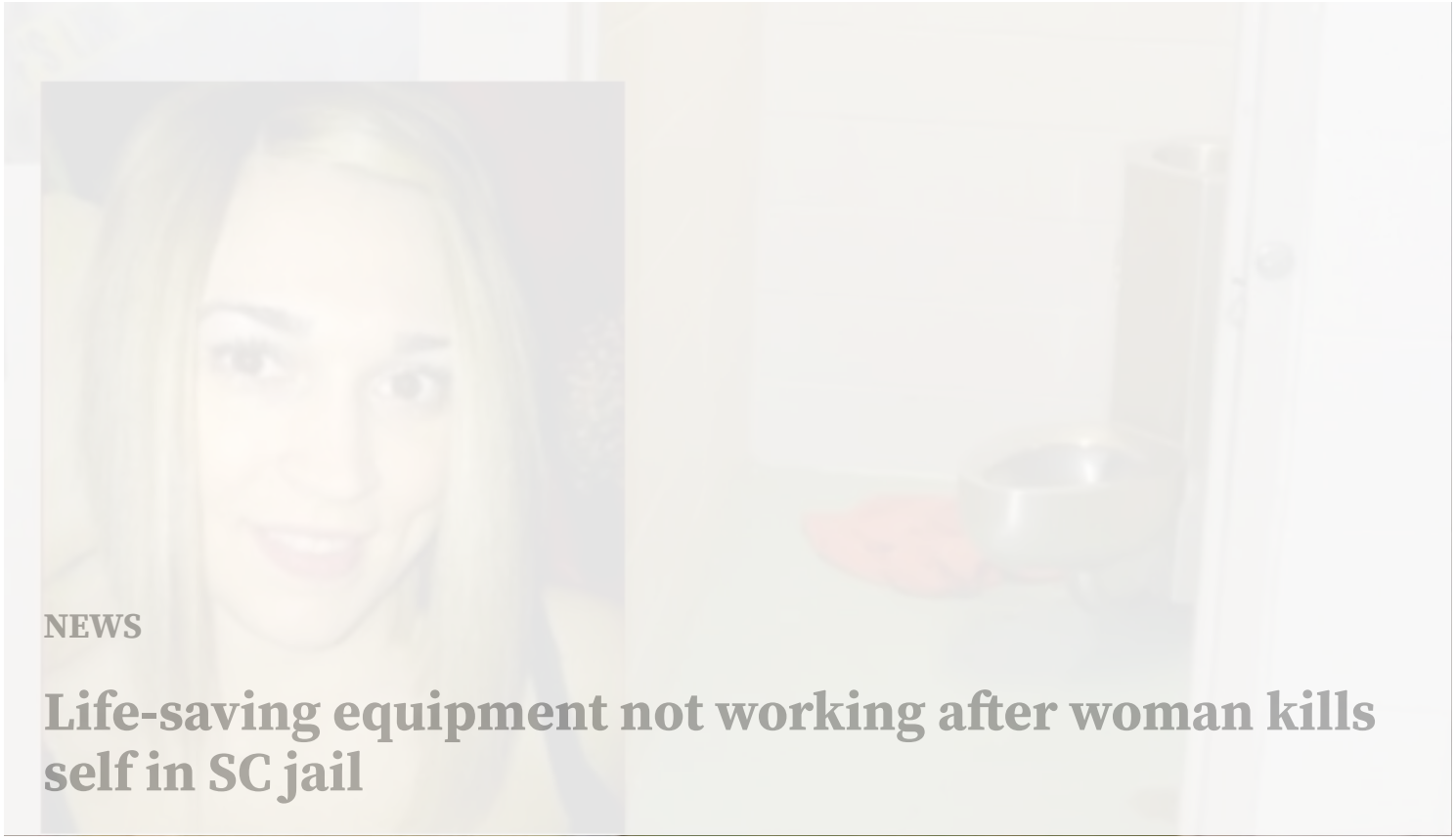
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UPDATED OCTOBER 06, 2022 9:36 AM

South Carolina is ‘full speed ahead’ with Luke Doty, despite having redshirt as option

UPDATED OCTOBER 06, 2022 12:10 PM

71°



NEWS

Life-saving equipment not working after woman kills self in SC jail

Posted: Jun 14, 2016 / 07:17 PM EDT
Updated: Jun 14, 2016 / 07:17 PM EDT

SHARE

SPARTANBURG, SC – An AED Defibrillator and a landline phone did not work after Spartanburg County Deputies' found a woman hanged in a suicide watch cell, according to documents in a SLED report.

Ashley Harmon was arrested in June of 2015 for domestic violence, the incident report says Harmon was violent en route to the jail, spitting on deputies and kicking their patrol cars. Harmon was known to be suicidal and also have mental health disorders. Because of all these

factors, deputies placed Harmon in a suicide watch cell within the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

Suicide watch requires deputies to check on inmates every 15 minutes. The SLED report says deputies did that. When they went to check on her 13 minutes later, they found her hanged by her shirt on a hinge off the wall.

ADVERTISING

Since that suicide, deputies have not used these cells because of these hinges. The detention center has now added additional security cameras and a new electronic tracking device, to show inmate's status at all times.

The Sheriff's office sent the AED off for testing and there were no irregularities with it. They said the phone showed no issues after the event either.

The Sheriff's Office hopes to renovate the former suicide watch cells to be used again.

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