Record of Death

Provided by LA Department of Public Safety and Corrections on 03/29/2022

2021

Offender Name: Steven Rudolph

DOC #: 756940

Age / Race: 49 / White

Admit Date: 12/7/2020

Sentence: 7 years

Admit Date at Last Facility: 12/7/2020

Facility / Housing Unit: Local/ St. Tammany Parish Jail / R.H.-Ad Seg

Date of Death: 2/26/2021

Cause of Death: Strangulation/suffocation (anoxic brain injury)

Category of Death: Suicide

Expected / Unexpected: Unexpected

Autopsy Ordered: Yes/Pending

Location: LOCAL

Agency ORI# **LA05200T1**	**ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE** **1200 CHAMPAGNE ST , COVINGTON, LA, 70433**	AGENCY REPORT NUMBER 2021-002002
Phone (985) 8982320	**INCIDENT**	1. Original Juvenile ☐ 2. Supplement 1

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Reported: Day	Date	Time(mil)	Time Dispatched (mil)	Time Arrived (mil)	Time Completed (mil)
Thursday	02/25/2021	23:40	23:40	23:41	04:29

Incident: Day	Date	Time (mil)	Day	Date	Time (mil)
From THURSDAY	02/25/2021	23:40	To FRIDAY	02/26/2021	04:29

Incident Type
Death-suicide

OFFENSE(S)

LOCATION

Incident Location (Common Name, Street, Apt. Number)
6000 - 1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.

Cross Streets

City, State
LA

Zip	Geographic Indicator	Location Type
	45N	Jail/prison

NARRATIVE

See attached resume.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains

Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
VARNADO, BLAKE	3970			7116	04/14/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
RUDOLPH, ADAM D	3835	04/27/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
NONE		
Assigned To	Assigned By	Assigned Date
Case Status	Exception Type	Date Cleared
CLOSED		

INCIDENT - PERSON(S)

Juvenile [ ] 1. Original 2. Supplement [1]

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Original Report Date	Incident Type
02/25/2021	Death-suicide

VICTIM/WITNESS

Offense Ind.	V/W Code	Victim Type	Juvenile	Name (First Middle Last +Family)
	Deceased	Adult	NO	Steven Eugene Rudolph

Famiy / Maiden Name	Place of Birth	Citizenship	Occupation
	Plantation, Fl	United States Citizen	

Address (Street, Apt. Number)	City	State	Zip	Phone
1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.	COVINGTON	La	70433	

Employer / School	Address	City	State	Zip	Business Phone
6000	1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.	COVINGTON	La	70433-	

Synopsis of Involvement	Victim DID receive information on Victim's Rights and Services Pursuant to State Law
See Resume	N/A

Driver License Number	DL State	Driver License Class	Driver License Expiration	Driver License Status	Suspension Length
	La				0

Social Security Number	Res. Type	Res. Status	INS#	NCIC#	Arrest#	OBTS#
			0			

Race	Ethnicity	Sex	Date of Birth	Age	Height	Weight	Build
White	Not Hispanic	Male		49	511	149	Medium

Hair Color	Hair Length	Hair Style	Facial Hair	Eye Color	Complexion
Gray/partial	Short	Straight	Beard	Brown	Med

Scars / Marks / Tatoos (Location / Describe)

Amputee | Special Identifiers | Unusual Features

Injury Type(s)	Extent of Injury	Mental / Physical Condition	Medication Required / Type	Doctor / Medical (Name, Phone Number)
Other	FATAL			

Medical Aid Given	Treated	Sobriety	Transported?	Transported To:	Beginning Mileage:	Ending Mileage:
Yes	Yes		YES	St. Tammany Par		

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains	Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
Varnado, Blake	3970			7116	04/14/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
RUDOLPH, ADAM D	3835	04/27/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0

INCIDENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 1

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/25/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

See attached resume.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			
Officer(s) Reporting	**ID. Number**	**Name**			**ID. Number**	**Unit**	**Date**	
Varnado, Blake	3970					7116	04/14/2021	
Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	**ID. Number**	**Approved Date**	**# Offenses**	**# Victims**	**# Offenders**	**# Premises Ent.**	**# Vehicles Stolen**	**# Arrested**
RUDOLPH, ADAM D	3835	04/27/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
NONE		
Assigned To	**By**	**Assigned Date**
Case Status	**Exception Type**	**Date Cleared**
CLOSED		

Agency ORI# **LA05200T1**	**ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE** **1200 CHAMPAGNE ST , COVINGTON, LA, 70433** **SUPPLEMENT**	AGENCY REPORT NUMBER 2021-002002
Phone (985) 8982320		1. Original Juvenile ☐ 2. Supplement ☒ 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Reported: Day	Date	Time(mil)	Time Dispatched (mil)	Time Arrived (mil)	Time Completed (mil)
Friday	02/26/2021	00:50	00:50	01:31	03:43

Incident: Day	Date	Time (mil)	Day	Date	Time (mil)
From FRIDAY	02/26/2021	00:50	To FRIDAY	02/26/2021	03:43

Incident Type
Death-suicide

OFFENSE(S)

LOCATION

Incident Location (Common Name, Street, Apt. Number)
ST TAMMANY PARISH JAIL - 1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.

Cross Streets

City, State
COVINGTON, LA

Zip	Geographic Indicator	Location Type
70433	45N	Jail?prison

NARRATIVE

SEE NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains

Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182			7616	08/20/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
CRIM RECORDS		
Assigned To	Assigned By	Assigned Date
Case Status	Exception Type	Date Cleared
ACTIVE		

SUPPLEMENT - PERSON(S)

Juvenile [ ] 1. Original [ ] 2. Supplement [2]

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Original Report Date	Incident Type
02/26/2021	Death-suicide

VICTIM/WITNESS

Offense Ind.	V/W Code	Victim Type	Juvenile	Name (First Middle Last +Family)
	Deceased	Adult	NO	Steven EUGENE RUDOLPH

Famiy / Maiden Name	Place of Birth	Citizenship	Occupation
	Plantation, Fl	United States Citizen	

Address (Street, Apt. Number)	City	State	Zip	Phone
1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.	COVINGTON	La	70433	

Employer / School	Address	City	State	Zip	Business Phone
6000	1200 CHAMPAGNE ST.	COVINGTON	La	70433-	

Synopsis of Involvement	Victim DID receive information on Victim's Rights and Services Pursuant to State Law
See Resume	N/A

Driver License Number	DL State	Driver License Class	Driver License Expiration	Driver License Status	Suspension Length
	La				0

Social Security Number	Res. Type	Res. Status	INS#	NCIC#	Arrest#	OBTS#
			0			

Race	Ethnicity	Sex	Date of Birth	Age	Height	Weight	Build
White	Not Hispanic	Male		49	511	149	Medium

Hair Color	Hair Length	Hair Style	Facial Hair	Eye Color	Complexion
Gray/partial	Short	Straight	Beard	Brown	Med

Scars / Marks / Tatoos (Location / Describe)

Amputee | Special Identifiers | Unusual Features

Injury Type(s)	Extent of Injury	Mental / Physical Condition	Medication Required / Type	Doctor / Medical (Name, Phone Number)
Other	FATAL			

Medical Aid Given	Treated	Sobriety	Transported?	Transported To:	Beginning Mileage:	Ending Mileage:
Yes	Yes		YES	St. Tammany Par		

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains	Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182			7616	08/17/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

SUPPLEMENT - PROPERTY

Juvenile [ ] 1. Original [ ] 2. Supplement [2]

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Original Date Reported	Incident Type
02/26/2021	Death-suicide

Type of Theft

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	1	Clothing/fur	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
1	CL-1			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-1 at 0219 hours: One (1) gray mesh laundry bag with a knot collected from inside the exterior doorway. Brand: Unknown.

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	2	Clothing/fur	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
8	CL-2			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-2 at 0220 hours: Eight (8) white torn bedsheet strips collected from the hallway floor in front of the exterior doorway.

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	3	Clothing/fur	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
	CL-3			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-3 at 0221 hours: Two (2) orange shoes collected near the exterior doorway. Brand: Unknown. Size: 11.

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	4	Clothing/fur	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
1	CL-4			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-4 at 0225 hours: One (1) white partially torn bedsheet collected from the bed. Brand: Unknown.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains

Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182		7616		08/17/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicle Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

SUPPLEMENT - PROPERTY

Juvenile [ ] 1. Original 2. Supplement [2]

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002

Original Date Reported	Incident Type
02/26/2021	Death-suicide

Type of Theft

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	5	Clothing/fur	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
1	CL-5			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-5 at 0252 hours: One (1) white bedsheet strip cut from the bars above the interior cell door.

PROPERTY

Person Code #	Item #	Property Type	Status	Type of Loss (Theft)
	6	Photo	Recovered	

Quantity	Item Name	Brand	Model Name/Number	Serial Number
1	CL-6			

Offense Ind.	Owner Applied Number	Value	Value Recovered	Date Recovered
				02/26/2021

NCIC	Entered By	Damage	Estimated Damage

Description
CL-6: One (1) compact disk containing photographs.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains

Related Report Number(s)

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182			7616	08/17/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicle Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

SUPPLEMENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/26/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

On Friday, February 26, 2021, Technician Suzanne Melara was requested to respond to St Tammany Parish Jail, located at 1200 Champagne Street, Covington in reference to an attempted suicide.

Tech. Melara arrived on scene at approximately 0131 hours and came in contact with Lieutenant Jennifer Fayard who advised the following: correction deputies responded to Left Hallway Isolation cell and cut down a male inmate who was observed hanging by a bed sheet made into a make shift rope above his jail cell door. The inmate was transported to the hospital in an unknown condition and was identified as, Steven Rudolph, W/M, DOB: PRIV-1971. The inmate was later pronounced deceased at the hospital. Lieutenant Keith Canizaro, Sergeant Adam Rudolph, and Detective Blake Varnado arrived later on scene to conduct their investigation.

Tech. Melara proceeded to main hallway in A Central building and was directed to the last door on the left side of the hallway. The door was observed to lead to an individual jail cell identified as Left Hallway isolation cell.

Tech. Melara photographed the isolation cell from the hallway and observed a blue metal door was on the exterior side of the cell. In the hallway across from the door were scattered pieces of paper and suspected blood stains. The stains varied from 2 centimeters to 14.5 centimeters in size and spanned across the floor toward the right side of the hallway.

Tech. Melara observed the exterior cell door was open and unlocked. The upper half of the door had a hatch window that was open and on the door was a key hole and handle. On the interior side of the door were unknown stains, suspected to be juice. On the hallway floor in front of the doorway was a pile of torn white strips of a bed sheet and an orange, left shoe. On the bed sheet strips were stains of suspected vomit and feces. Laying inside the doorway was a mesh laundry bag with a knot tied in middle of it. On the cell floor in front of the doorway was an orange, right shoe. The following was collected:

CL-1 at 0219 hours: One (1) gray mesh laundry bag with a knot collected from inside the exterior doorway. Brand: Unknown.

CL-2 at 0220 hours: Eight (8) white torn bed sheet strips collected from the hallway floor in front of the exterior doorway.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182			7616	08/17/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
CRIM RECORDS		
Assigned To	By	Assigned Date
Case Status	Exception Type	Date Cleared
ACTIVE		

SUPPLEMENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/26/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

CL-3 at 0221 hours: Two (2) orange shoes collected near the exterior doorway. Brand: Unknown. Size: 11.

Cpl. Cosban advised deputies found the interior cell bar door tied closed with torn bed sheet strips and located toilet tissue and soap inside the door key hole prior them opening the door.

Tech. Melara entered the cell and was inside a small hallway leading to a set of cell bars and the interior door of the cell. The door was open and on the floor near the doorway was smears of feces. Next to the left frame of the door were white pieces of bar soap and a bed sheet strip. To the left of the soap was an empty roll of toilet paper and on the hallway floor were white pieces of bar soap.

Tech. Melara observed on the front of the cell door was metal plate and key hole. Located inside and around the key hole was white bar soap. Above the door was a cut strip of white bed sheet that was tied around a cell bar. No sign of force entry was located on the door.

Tech. Melara proceeded into the jail cell and observed on the left wall were red stains of suspected juice and there were the black handwritten lettering of "SET" and "SER" in marker. In the far left corner, near the ceiling, were two surveillance cameras. One of the cameras was in a box and on the sides of the box was toilet paper. On the far wall was a metal seat and table. In the far right corner of the far wall was a metal bed with no mattress on it. Resting on the floor near the bed was a mattress. In the rear right corner was a metal pedestal sink and toilet. On the right entry wall was the blue handwritten wording of "Fuck Coggins" and name "Ray E Rivers" in marker.

Tech. Melara observed on the foot of the bed were two orange slippers, a book, towel, t-shirt, and plastic spork. Near the middle of the bed was a white piece of bed sheet and laying over the edge of the bed was a gray blanket. Underneath the blanket was a white bed sheet that was partially laying on the floor. The bed sheet was torn and twisted. On the far wall, above the bed, were the black handwritten names of "Davis' and "Rudolph" in marker. Below the names were the black handwritten wording of "Me &" and lettering " B MI LI." On the right wall was a black cross and handwritten word of "Christ" in marker.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name	ID. Number	Unit	Date
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182			7616	08/17/2021

Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	ID. Number	Approved Date	# Offenses	# Victims	# Offenders	# Premises Ent.	# Vehicles Stolen	# Arrested
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To
CRIM RECORDS	
Assigned To	**By** / **Assigned Date**
Case Status	**Exception Type** / **Date Cleared**
ACTIVE	

SUPPLEMENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/26/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Tech. Melara made her way to the pedestal sink and toilet and observed on the front of the pedestal was a roll of toilet paper. The water to the sink was running and on top of the right side of the sink was a piece of wet toilet paper. Laying inside the sink was a bar of soap with a missing end. Located in the water of the toilet bowl was an empty bar soap wrapper.

Tech. Melara observed the bed sheet strip, above the cell door, was approximately 6 inches long and was tied around a cell bar approximately 7. 3 feet up from the floor. The width of the strip on the bar was approximately 3 centimeters wide and diameter of the bar was approximately 1.5 centimeter. Tech. Melara marked the strip with a black marker and cut the strip away from the bar. The strip unraveled as it was cut and was observed to been fashioned into a tightened loop around the cell bar. The following was collected:

CL-4 at 0225 hours: One (1) white partially torn bed sheet collected from the bed. Brand: Unknown.

CL-5 at 0252 hours: One (1) white bed sheet strip cut from the bars above the interior cell door.

At the request of Lt Canizaro, Tech. Melara proceeded to the control room of A Central building and photographed the room.

It should be noted, based on Tech. Melara's experience, she had knowledge that the control room operated the cameras, doors, and gates to A Central building and additional buildings of the jail.

Tech. Melara entered the room and observed on the left wall was a ladder and bathroom. In front of the bathroom were two chairs and an L shaped office desk. On the far wall were windows with blinds and in the far right corner was a counter. Along the right wall were three privacy glass windows. The windows had a view of the hallway to the isolation cell and above the windows were three monitor screens.

Tech. Melara proceeded to the office desk and observed the desk overlooked the monitor screens and windows on the right wall. On top of the desk were four computer monitors, office supplies, and a computer. Displayed on one of the computer monitor was a grid panel of 19 different camera channels.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			
Officer(s) Reporting	**ID. Number**	**Name**			**ID. Number**	**Unit**	**Date**	
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182					7616	08/17/2021	
Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	**ID. Number**	**Approved Date**	**# Offenses**	**# Victims**	**# Offenders**	**# Premises Ent.**	**# Vehicles Stolen**	**# Arrested**
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
CRIM RECORDS		
Assigned To	By	Assigned Date
Case Status	Exception Type	Date Cleared
ACTIVE		

SUPPLEMENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/26/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Tech. Melara made her way to the right wall and observed the three monitor screens contained view grid panels and a total of 110 different camera channels. Displayed on the center monitor was a view from the camera inside Left Hallway isolation cell and were 20 alternate camera views of inmate cells.

Tech. Melara cleared the scene at approximately 0343 hours and was advised by Lt Canizaro to meet Det. Varnado at MEDICAL MEDICAL, Covington. Tech. Melara was requested to collect Mays' clothing from the hospital by Lt Canizaro and was advised that photographs were not needed of Mays.

Tech. Melara arrived at the hospital at approximately 0352 hours where she met with Det. Varnado and came in contact with Deputy Adrianna Brumfield and Christopher Mays inside a hospital room. Tech. Melara observed a male subject identified as Mays was lying on a gurney, wearing a hospital gown, and was unconscious on a ventilator machine.

Tech. Melara inquired about Mays' clothing and spoke with Nurse MEDICAL. Nurse MEDI advised Mays' clothing was discarded by attending hospital staff after Mays arrived at hospital covered in feces. Nurse MEDI further advised the clothing had been discarded in a biohazard trash can which was emptied prior to Tech. Melara's arrival.

Tech. Melara cleared the hospital at approximately 0406 hours.

On Monday, March 8, 2021, CL-1 through CL-5 were photographed.

CL-1, the mesh laundry bag, was approximately 42.8 centimeters by 21 centimeters in size and a square tag was attached onto a side. On the tag were the faded black handwritten letters of "SLD," name "Randolph," and "LH." Located within the tied knot was the drawstring opening of the bag and cut piece to the bag.

CL-2, the torn bed sheet strips, varied in size from approximately 7 to 43 inches long by approximately 8 to 19.5 inches wide. The strips were dirty and contained stains of dirt, suspected vomit and feces. The ends of the strips were cut and jagged. Four of the eight strips had a knot on them. On a strip near the knot was a hole of approximately 2.3 centimeters long by 1.2 centimeter wide. On a second strip was a twisted loop and was an area of black linear marking and brown stain of suspected

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			
Officer(s) Reporting	**ID. Number**	**Name**			**ID. Number**	**Unit**	**Date**	
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182					7616	08/17/2021	
Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	**ID. Number**	**Approved Date**	**# Offenses**	**# Victims**	**# Offenders**	**# Premises Ent.**	**# Vehicles Stolen**	**# Arrested**
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
CRIM RECORDS		
Assigned To	**By**	**Assigned Date**
Case Status	**Exception Type**	**Date Cleared**
ACTIVE		

SUPPLEMENT - NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

Juvenile ☐ 1. Original ☐ 2. Supplement 2

Agency ORI Number	Agency Name	Agency Report Number
LA05200T1	ST TAMMANY PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE	2021-002002
Original Date Reported	**Incident Type**	
02/26/2021	**Death-suicide**	

NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

rust. The area was approximately 8.5 centimeters long and 4 centimeters wide. Located on the third strip were three cuts that varied between approximately 1 centimeter to 7 centimeters long.

CL-3, the shoes, were dirty and were observed to be heavily worn. A white piece of lace was threaded around the opening of each shoe and the soles were missing pieces. Both shoes were observed to have feces on them.

CL-4, the bed sheet, was approximately 52 inches by 42 inches in size and was dingy. The bed sheet was observed to be linearly torn on three sides.

CL-5, the strip of bed sheet, from the cell bars, was observed to be two pieces that were approximately 7 to 9.5 inches by 5 to 8 inches in size. The ends were cut and frayed. The marked pieces of black marker were aligned beside another and photographed.

CL-1 through CL-5 and CL-6: One (1) compact disk containing photographs were submitted into the Evidence Vault for safe-keeping.

Nothing further.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Report Contains					Related Report Number(s)			

Officer(s) Reporting	ID. Number	Name			ID. Number	Unit	Date	
MELARA, SUZANNE E	3182					7616	08/17/2021	
Officer Reviewing (If Applicable)	**ID. Number**	**Approved Date**	**# Offenses**	**# Victims**	**# Offenders**	**# Premises Ent.**	**# Vehicles Stolen**	**# Arrested**
CHAMPAGNE, ALISON A	3116	08/25/2021	0	1	0	0	0	0

Routed To	Referred To	
CRIM RECORDS		
Assigned To	By	Assigned Date
Case Status	Exception Type	Date Cleared
ACTIVE		

Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office

MAJOR CRIMES UNIT INVESTIGATIVE CASE REPORT

ITEM NUMBER: 2021-002002

INCIDENT: Inmate Death at St. Tammany Parish Jail

INVESTIGATOR: Detective Blake Varnado

DATE OF INCIDENT: February 25th, 2021

LOCATION: 1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

DECEDENT: Steven Rudolph

Synopsis

On February 26th, 2021 at 00:56 hours Detective Blake Varnado, an investigator with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, responded to the St. Tammany Parish Jail to initiate an investigation after inmate Steven Rudolph used a bed sheet to asphyxiate himself. Steven was transported to MEDICAL MEDICAL where he succumbed to his injuries in the late afternoon. During the course of the investigation, Detective Varnado authored two search warrant affidavits for Steven's medical records, and obtained those documents. Detective Varnado also obtained security camera footage, desk logs, written and recorded statements, and other exhibits to comprehensively understand and document the circumstances surrounding Steven's death.

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[February 26th, 2021: Initial Response]

On February 26th, 2021 at 00:56 hours Detective Blake Varnado, an investigator with the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, received initial information from Sgt. Adam Rudolph concerning the death of Steven Rudolph, a Department of Corrections inmate housed at the St. Tammany Parish Jail. When Detective Varnado arrived at the jail, located at 1200 Champagne Street in Covington, Louisiana, he was met by Captain Scotty Payne, a captain assigned to the St. Tammany Parish Jail Security Division. Captain Payne apprised Detective Varnado of the information known at the time.

Sometime between February 25th, 2021 at 23:30 hours and February 26th, 2021 at 00:00 hours, Sergeant Brandon Dussouy, who was working the A-Central pod, observed, via surveillance camera, Steven hanging from the bar-gate inside his cell, the left hall restricted housing unit (RHU). There are two doors in the cell, a solid door separating it from the hallway, and a second gate, made from bars, separating the cell from the hallway door; the space between the solid door and the gate was known as the sally port. Sergeant Dussouy requested assistance via his jail radio, and multiple deputies responded to Steven's cell. Once deputies entered the cell, they cut the fabric suspending Steven off the ground, and began to cut the fabric Steven had tied around the bars and the gate. Deputies then had to dig what appeared to be soap out of the keyhole before finally gaining full entry into the cell.

The aforementioned A-Central pod was a control room outfitted with surveillance camera monitors, computers to open and close electronic doors, and store physical keys. When standing in the pod there was a window that looked down a long hallway. The first dormitory on the left was referred to as "K-Dorm." After K-Dorm, there was a bar-gate that led into a "T" shaped hallway. At the end of the hallway on the left side was a dormitory referred to as "A-900-A," and in the middle of that hallway was another hall with eight isolation cells, referred to as "Left Side RHU." At the end of the hallway on the right side was a dormitory referred to as "A-900-B," and in the middle of that hallway was another hall with eight isolations cells, referred to as "Right Side RHU." Continuing down the main hallway, there were only two cells: the left hall RHU and the right hall RHU.

The deputy assigned to work the control pod, which was Sergeant Dussouy on February 25th, 2021, was responsible for monitoring the surveillance cameras, maintaining the desk log, opening doors via the computer system, and checking-out physical keys to deputies as needed. Sergeant Dussouy explained, in addition to monitoring the inmates' activities via the surveillance camera, a diligent deputy functioning in this role would monitor the deputies as they interacted with inmates, for their safety.

Once inside, deputies pulled Steven into the hallway, called 9-1-1 for emergency medical services, began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and applied an automated external defibrillator (AED). When paramedics with Acadian Ambulance Service and the Covington Fire Department arrived, they relieved the deputies and rendered aid before

Acadian transported Steven to [MEDICAL]. At the time, Steven was still alive, but in critical condition, and Deputy Adriana Brumfield was with him at the hospital.

Crime Scene Technician Suzanne Melara arrived February 26th, 2021 at 01:51 hours, and photographed and processed Steven's cell. She also collected the fabric Steven tied around his neck. Meanwhile, Detective Varnado, with the assistance of Lieutenant Jennifer Fayard, reviewed the surveillance camera footage, maintained on the digital video recorder in the Lieutenants' Office. There was a surveillance camera positioned inside Steven's cell, and another outside the cell monitoring the hallway. While reviewing the footage, Detective Varnado observed at 23:01 hours Steven tore his bed sheet into two strips. Steven then tied the strips around the bar-gate and frame, in a manner hindering entry into the cell. Steven also tied his laundry sack at the very bottom of the bar-gate in the same manner. According to Lieutenant Fayard, both the sheet and laundry sack were issued to Steven.

At 23:04 Steven placed his blanket and mattress pad against the bar-gate and appeared to adjust one of the ties he placed on the bar-gate. At 23:07 Steven took another piece of sheet and spun it, as though he were trying to form the sheet into a rope. At 23:10 Steven sat on the bed, put a blanket over his head, and continued to spin the sheet.

When Steven removed the blanket, the sheet appeared to be tied around his neck. He then climbed several feet up the bars, tied one end of the sheet to the bars, and suspended himself by the neck at 23:11 hours. Approximately ten minutes elapsed between when Steven began preparations, and when he hanged himself. Steven hanged for several minutes, then the camera skips to 23:37 hours due to a lack of movement.

At approximately 23:38 hours Sergeant Dussouy noticed Steven hanging via the cell surveillance camera, and called for assistance on his jail radio. At 23:39 hours deputies opened the porthole in the exterior cell door. Lieutenant Fayard explained they waited outside the cell for the physical door key, because the cell was not controlled by an automated lock. Deputies enter the cell just before 23:40 hours and immediately cut the sheet suspending Steven off the ground, causing him to fall to the floor. Deputies removed the ties Steven placed around the bar-gate, and made full entry into the cell at 23:42 hours. Deputies then dragged Steven into the hallway outside his cell, and administered CPR.

Lieutenant Fayard explained in addition to the ties Steven placed on the bar-gate, he also shoved what she thought was wet toilet paper into the bar-gate's keyhole. Prior to entering the cell, deputies had to dig out as much of the material as they could, using handcuff keys.

When Detective Varnado returned to the cell, he asked Technician Melara if she found any wet toilet paper inside the keyhole. Technician Melara explained there was no wet toilet paper, but there were pieces of soap inside the keyhole. There were also pieces

of soap on the ground outside the bar-gate, in the sally port area, and the rest of the bar was in the sink.

While Technician Melara photographed and measured Steven's cell, Detective Varnado attempted to speak with the only other person near Steven leading up to, and during his suicide, the inmate in the right hall RHU, inmate Austin Esponge. However, Austin rambled about personal information, not pertaining to Steven, and provided no context for his statements. Detective Varnado later learned Austin also struggles with his mental health.

After Technician Melara finished photographing and processing the cell, she and Detective Varnado searched the cell one final time for a suicide note, specifically inside Steven's bible since it was the only source of paper in the cell, to no avail. Detective Varnado collected the crime scene log from Corporal William Cosban and released the scene back to the jail staff. Detective Varnado, and Sergeant Adam Rudolph then spoke with Sergeant Dussouy in a private office in the jail administration building. Detective Varnado used his digital audio recorder to record their conversation, which began at 03:08 hours on February 26th, 2021.

During his interview, Sergeant Dussouy stated he was working the A-Central control pod, opening the automated doors in the building, and monitoring the jail camera system. Around 23:30 hours, he walked to the microwave, which is very close to the monitor displaying the camera for Steven's cell, and noticed Steven hanging. Sergeant Dussouy said he called for assistance on the radio. When deputies arrived outside the cell, Sergeant Dussouy exited the pod, and slid the keys for the cell on the floor. However, the keys hit a bench, and separated from the keyring. Deputies found the correct key for the door, and made entry.

Prior to noticing Steven hanging, Sergeant Dussouy was monitoring a situation in C-500, another area of the jail. At approximately 23:17 hours on February 25th, 2021 Deputy Adriana Brumfield requested assistance with a non-compliant inmate, and Sergeant Dussouy was opening doors for deputies responding to her, as well as monitoring Deputy Brumfield's safety. During the last visual observation Sergeant Dussouy conducted on the cell cameras, he said it appeared to him Steven was standing by the bar-gate. Sergeant Dussouy said Steven would regularly stand at the gate, and shout at deputies.

When asked about previous interactions with Steven, Sergeant Dussouy said he never heard of Steven attempting to harm himself before, but he knew Steven was previously admitted into the medical unit's suicide watch. Sergeant Dussouy also knew Steven behaved erratically, and suffered from mental illness. Steven had to be placed in the restricted housing unit after he used toilet water to "clean" the dormitory cell, and other inmates threatened his safety.

Sergeant Dussouy also stated he took time-stamped notes, detailing when CPR was administered, when shocks were given via AED, when emergency medical servies

arrived, et al. Sergeant Dussouy said when he returned to the pod, he gave the notes to Corporal Cosban, and Corporal Cosban continued keeping time-stamped notes. At the conclusion of Sergeant Dussouy's interview, Detective Varnado collected those notes from Corporal Cosban, to be turned in as an attachment to this report. A copy of the audio recording was later burned to a compact disk and submitted into evidence labeled BV1. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

After departing the St. Tammany Parish Jail, Detective Varnado proceeded to ME MEDICAL. While en route to the hospital, Captain Payne notified Detective Varnado he contacted Steven's brother, Richard Rudolph, and informed him of Steven's condition. When Detective Varnado arrived at the hospital at 04:03 hours, he spoke with MEDICAL Steven's charge nurse, who stated all of the clothing Steven arrived with had been shredded and disposed of in the trash. When asked why, MEDI said Steven's clothing was soiled with urine and feces, and appeared undesirable to the hospital staff. MEDI also explained Steven had minimal brain activity, and the hospital would be reaching out to his next of kin to discuss Steven's condition.

Later that morning, February 26th, 2021, at 09:54 hours, Detective Varnado obtained the 9-1-1 call recording. Detective Varnado listened to the call, placed by Deputy Michael Parker at 23:41hours, but did not hear anything significant in the call. The recording was later submitted into evidence on a compact disk, labeled BV2. At approximately 13:15 hours, Detective Varnado returned to the jail to meet with Captain Payne. During the meeting, Detective Varnado collected a printed copy of the A-Central Logbook dating February 25th, 2021 at 00:00 hours until February 26th, 2021 at 23:59 hours.

Detective Varnado also received a USB drive containing the camera footage from inside Steven's cell, the hallway outside of Steven's cell, and footage from the incident Sergeant Dussouy described in C-500 involving Deputy Brumfield. This USB drive would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV3. When Captain Payne provided Detective Varnado with the copy of the logbook, he noted Sergeant Dussouy logged the suicide having occurred at 23:25 hours which was not the correct time. However, the logbooks in the other pods have it accurately logged at 23:38 hours on February 25th, 2021. In a later interview, Sergeant Dussouy described the incident as a typographical error.

Later that afternoon, Detective Varnado authored two search warrant affidavits for Steven's medical records; one for his records at MEDICAL, and the other for his medical records from the jail medical staff. Judge John Keller signed both warrants. At 15:25 hours, Detective Varnado served the warrant, in person, to ME MEDICAL records department. At 16:09 hours, Detective Varnado emailed the search warrant for the jail medical records to Dr. Jose Ham, per his request.

At approximately 16:00 hours Detective Varnado received word Steven succumbed to his injuries. Detective Varnado confirmed this information with Pamela Little, the Chief of Investigations at the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office. Pamela

stated her office would coordinate with the hospital to retrieve Steven's body, and an autopsy would be conducted on March 1st, 2021.

[March 1st, 2021: Autopsy & Deputy Interviews]

On March 1st, 2021 at 08:30 hours Dr. Michael Defatta, a forensic pathologist with the St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office, conducted Steven's autopsy. At the conclusion of the autopsy, Dr. Defatta spoke with Detective Varnado and advised he observed no injuries or signs of trauma that would have complicated Steven's death, other than being asphyxiated by his bed sheet. Dr. Defatta also stated he intended to rule the death a suicide.

At 13:00 hours, Detective Varnado returned to the St. Tammany Parish Jail to conduct recorded interviews with the correctional officers involved in the incident. All interviews were recorded using Detective Varnado's digital audio recorder, and later burned to a compact disk.

At 13:07 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Sergeant Ryan Robin, a shift sergeant on duty during Steven's suicide. Sergeant Robin stated he was in the administration building when he heard the call on the radio requesting deputies to respond to a "27/29S," which is the radio signal for an attempted suicide, in the left hall RHU. When Sergeant Robin arrived at the cell, deputies were waiting for the key to open the door. When Sergeant Dussouy slid the keys on the floor, they broke apart and scattered. Deputies managed to quickly locate the correct key, and opened the first door into the cell. Sergeant Robin said he cut the sheet holding Steven in the air, and struggled opening the bar-gate due to the soap in the keyhole. Eventually Sergeant Robin managed to open the bar-gate, he then dragged Steven into the hallway, and assisted administering CPR. Sergeant Robin's interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV4. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 13:19 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Corporal William Cosban, a shift corporal on duty during Steven's suicide. Corporal Cosban stated he was in the administration building, collecting surveillance footage of the incident that occurred in C-500, when he heard the suicide signal on the radio. When he arrived, he took over the crime scene log, and the aforementioned time-stamped notes Sergeant Dussouy started writing. Corporal Cosban's interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV5. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 13:25 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Deputy Leah Nyugen. Deputy Nyugen stated she was training Deputy Tristen Hammel during the night watch on February 25th, 2021. Deputy Nyugen and Deputy Hammel were conducting a count in another dormitory when they heard the suicide signal on the radio. They ended their count, and responded to the left hall RHU. When Sergeant Dussouy slid the keys on the floor, Deputy Nyugen said she stopped the keys with her foot, causing them to break apart and scatter. Deputies found the door key under a nearby bench, and entered the cell. Deputy Nyugen said she noticed a white substance protruding from the bar-gate keyhole.

Noticing there were enough deputies in the cell, she went to the front of the jail to wait for EMS, and to lead them to the left hall RHU once they arrived. Deputy Nyugen's interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV6. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 13:38 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Deputy Tristen Hammel. Deputy Hammel advised she and Deputy Nyugen were conducting a count when they heard the signal to respond to the left hall RHU. Deputy Hammel said Sergeant Dussouy "tripped" and slid the keys across the floor to deputies. When Deputy Nyugen went to escort EMS to the hallway, she went to the control pod, and took no further part in the incident. Deputy Hammel's interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV7. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 16:15 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Lieutenant Jennifer Fayard. Lieutenant Fayard stated she was assisting Deputy Brumfield with the incident in C-500 when the suicide call came over the radio. When she arrived in the hallway outside of the left hall RHU, she called for the door key. When Sergeant Dussouy exited the A-Central pod to provide the key, he slipped, and slid the keys across the floor. While the keys were sliding, Lieutenant Fayard said they appeared to strike a bench, however Detective Varnado knew from Deputy Nyugen's interview she stopped them with her foot. Lieutenant Fayard explained after striking what she thought was the bench, the keyring came apart, and the keys scattered. Once they entered the cell, Sergeant Robin cut Steven down, while Deputy Migues worked on getting the key into the bar-gate.

Meanwhile Lieutenant Fayard started cutting at the laundry sack and sheets Steven tied around the bar-gate. Lieutenant Fayard also cut the sheet off of Steven's neck, after he fell to the floor. Once they got Steven out of the cell, deputies administered CPR, a nurse operated an AED, and Lieutenant Fayard used an artificial manual breathing unit, colloquially referred to as an Ambu bag, to provide breaths between CPR. Lieutenant Fayard's interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV8. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

[March 2nd, 2021: Deputy Interviews Continued]

On March 2nd, 2021 at 0900 hours, Detective Varnado returned to the St. Tammany Parish Jail, and interviewed Deputy Phillip Morris in a private office. The conversation was recorded using a digital audio recorder, and later burned to a compact disk.

Deputy Morris stated he was familiar with Steven Rudolph prior to his suicide. In their past encounters Deputy Morris said Steven would make derisive comments about him, and his mother. Steven had also told Deputy Morris his family would "hang," and would routinely behave aggressively towards him. Deputy Morris also said Steven previously tore his bedsheets, and tied them around the bars in his cell as "decorations" on at least two other occasions. However, Deputy Morris did not recall Steven making comments about hurting himself. Deputy Morris described an occasion, when Steven still occupied a dormitory in the general population, where Steven dipped a rag in toilet water,

and wiped the bars and walls, saying he was "cleaning." Consequently, the other inmates complained about Steven until he was removed to the restricted housing unit. Concerning Steven's suicide, Deputy Morris said he took no physical part in the event, he described himself as a bystander, and ready to help, if needed. Deputy Morris' interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV9. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 09:34 hours, Detective Varnado interviewed Deputy Adriana Brumfield. Deputy Brumfield said she was conducting a count in C-500 when she noticed the dormitory had two extra bottles of "hepicide." Deputy Brumfield explained the "hepicide" was provided to the inmates to disinfect their dormitory, but they were only allowed one bottle at a time. When Deputy Brumfield removed the two extra bottles, inmate Lamarx Joiner began yelling at her, calling her a "bitch," and a "one-legged bitch." Deputy Brumfield explained she had two legs, and decided to remove Lamarx from the dormitory to sit on the bench for a "cool-down" period. Lamarx feigned a leg injury, and fell to floor, refusing to stand or walk. At this point, Deputy Brumfield called for assistance from other deputies. After the incident, Deputies Tyler Boudreaux and Zachariah Ussery stayed with her while she conducted her count. When the suicide signal came over the radio, Deputy Brumfield went to the left hall RHU, and was directed to prepare a marked unit to follow the ambulance to the hospital. Deputy Brumfield's interview was later submitted into evidence labeled BV10. For further information concerning the interview, refer to the evidence.

After concluding Deputy Brumfield's interview, Detective Varnado obtained the Unusual Occurrence Reports for the incident involving inmate Lamarx Joiner, and the fight that occurred in C-600 at 22:16 hours on February 25th, 2021. Detective Varnado also collected the Daily Observation Reports for Deputies Hammel and Ussery, as well as the Unusual Occurrence Report written by Deputy Donald Plaisance JR.

To briefly summarize his report, Deputy Plaisance stated he heard an attempted suicide signal on the radio, and responded to the left hall RHU cell. When he arrived, he assisted with CPR, and first aid until paramedics transported Steven to the hospital. The detail included in the report's narrative negated the necessity for a verbal interview with Deputy Plaisance. Detective Varnado then asked Lieutenant Fayard to search the logbook database for incidents involving Steven Rudolph and the keyword "sheets." The search yielded one result, dated December 13th, 2020. The entry read "Dy. Boudreaux entering Right hall RHU die [sic] to Rudolph refusing to take his sheet down from the bars." The search return was printed and later submitted as an attachment to this report.

[March 3rd, 2021: Deputy Interviews Continued]

On March 3rd, 2021 at 13:20 hours, Detective Varnado met with Deputy Nathaniel Migues at the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office Pearl River Training Center. In a private room, Detective Varnado interviewed Deputy Migues regarding Steven's suicide. The conversation was recorded using Detective Varnado's digital audio recorder, and later burned to a compact disk.

During the interview, Deputy Migues stated he was the first person to arrive outside the left hall RHU cell, after hearing the signal on the radio. Deputy Migeus said he opened the window on the hallway door, and saw Rudolph hanging from the bars. When Lieutenant Fayard called for the cell key, Sergeant Dussouy slid the keys on the ground. Deputy Migues explained although it was not an official policy, deputies are taught not to throw the keys because the brass could bend or break. Instead, when trying to get the keys to someone quickly, the keys are slid on the ground. However, Deputy Migues specified the keyring the jail used for at least the past two years was recently replaced with a less substantial, and differently designed keyring.

Once they got inside the cell, Corporal Cosban struggled to insert the key into the bar-gate keyhole, due to the soap. Deputy Migues said he used a handcuff key to dig some of the soap out of the keyhole, then Sergeant Robin forced the key in, and opened the gate. Deputy Migues later rode in the ambulance transporting Steven to MEDICAL MEDICAL Deputy Migues' interview would later be submitted into evidence labeled BV11.

After interviewing Deputy Migues, Detective Varnado returned to the St. Tammany Parish Jail, where he met with Lieutenant Amanda Schmidt. Detective Varnado asked if there were any keys still bound with the old keyrings, and Lieutenant Schmidt provided a set. Detective Varnado noticed the previous keyring, branded "keykop.com," appeared to be constructed of rigid metal, and was designed much like a pad-lock. However, the new keyring was a flexible loop, and when twisted into a figure "8" the ring would easily open. After observing the keyring's design, Detective Varnado noted should a set of keys with this ring be slid on the floor, and should one key be stopped by a person's foot, the other keys could continue forward, twisting the loop and causing it to easily open- scattering the keys.

After looking at the keyrings, Detective Varnado returned to the administration office. There he collected two USB drives, one containing twenty four hour surveillance footage of inside Steven's cell, and the other containing twenty-four hour surveillance footage of the hallway outside of the left hall RHU cell. Additionally, Detective Varnado collected a compact disk with the surveillance footage of the incidents in C-600 and C-500 that occurred shortly before Steven's suicide. Both USB drives were submitted into evidence labeled BV12, and the compact disk was submitted labeled BV13.

[March 5th, 2021: Medical Records Received]

On March 5th, 2021 at 12:40 hours Detective Varnado received Steven's medical records from MEDICAL through an online, email portal. When Detective Varnado read the records, he did not observe any documented findings inconsistent with the information he obtained thus far in the investigation. The records were saved to a compact disk and submitted into evidence labeled BV14.

Later that same afternoon, at 15:00 hours, Detective Varnado obtained printed medical records for Steven Rudolph, as documented by the St. Tammany Parish Jail's

medical provider, Connect Health. Ms. Denise Mancuso, a paralegal working for the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office, provided the documentation. Detective Varnado also obtained Steven's incarceration record containing his disciplinary history.

[March 9th, 2021: Steven Rudolph's Jail Records]

On March 9th, 2021 Detective Varnado reviewed Steven's incarceration records. In those records Detective Varnado learned Steven was placed in suicide watch on multiple occasions. Suicide watch was a designation within the jail's medical unit for people threatening self-harm. Steven also had several documented incidents where he damaged jail property, and fought with deputies. A few instances of note include:

- November 13th, 2020 Steven made comments to deputies indicating he would harm himself, and fought with deputies when they attempted to escort him to suicide watch.
- December 30th, 2020 Steven broke the camera in his cell with his hands.
- January 13th, 2021 Steven broke the phone receiver in the RHU shower area.
- On January 25th, 2021 the medical staff authored a request to the Department of Corrections requesting Steven be transferred out of the St. Tammany Parish Jail. The request cited "patient with serious mental illness diagnoses requiring long-term medications, and mental health care." In the section titled "diagnoses" was written "[MEDICAL]" However, DOC never replied to the request.
- January 30th, 2021 Steven covered the camera in his cell, was told to remove it, and complied. A short time later, Steven covered the camera again, refused to remove the covering, and fought with deputies.

After reviewing Steven's incarceration record, Detective Varnado reviewed the phone calls Steven made while incarcerated. Detective Varnado utilized the Echo: Voice Biometric System to locate calls Steven made using his own personal identification number (PIN), and the calls he made using other inmates' PINs. Many of Steven's calls were made to his brother, Richard Rudolph, using phone number [PRIVACY]. In some of the conversations Detective Varnado listened to between Richard and Steven, Steven would discuss financial arrangements, his social security check, rental vehicles in Florida, and other topics. A reoccurring request Steven made to Richard was for Richard to put money into his account, and the accounts of other inmates.

Such a conversation occurred on January 13th, 2021 at 07:37 hours. However, Richard refused, the two men argued, and Richard disconnected the call. After the call ended, Steven broke the phone receiver in the RHU shower. In other calls, Steven would discuss financial arrangements, and even plans for future ventures after he was released from prison.

On February 19th, 2021 at 18:28 hours, Steven used another inmate's PIN to call phone number [PRIVACY]. During the conversation, Steven discussed plans for a future business, and life after his release from prison.

On February 21st, 2021 at 21:45 hours, Steven called phone number PRIVACY PRIV, and referred to the call's recipient as "dad." When asked how he was doing, Steven says "there's not much life laying there wishing you were dead."

On February 22nd, 2021 at 09:51 hours, Steven used another inmate's PIN to call phone number PRIVACY. Steven discussed legal issues with the call's recipient, and asked the person for help getting out of the isolation cells. Detective Varnado searched the phone number through Google, and learned it belongs to the law offices of Matthew Champagne.

After listening to many of Steven's calls, and hearing nothing of note, Detective Varnado searched the Jail ATM website. This website maintains records of Steven's video calls, emails, and ATM deposits. Detective Varnado's searches indicated Steven did not make any video calls, and only sent three emails which did not seem to be of consequence to this investigation. Nonetheless, Detective Varnado generated a report containing the emails, and their contents to be submitted as an attachment to this report.

[March 10th, 2021: Reviewing Steven Rudolph's Jail Medical Records]

On March 10th, 2021 Detective Varnado reviewed the documents he received in response to his search warrant for Steven's medical records with the jail's healthcare provider. MEDICAL

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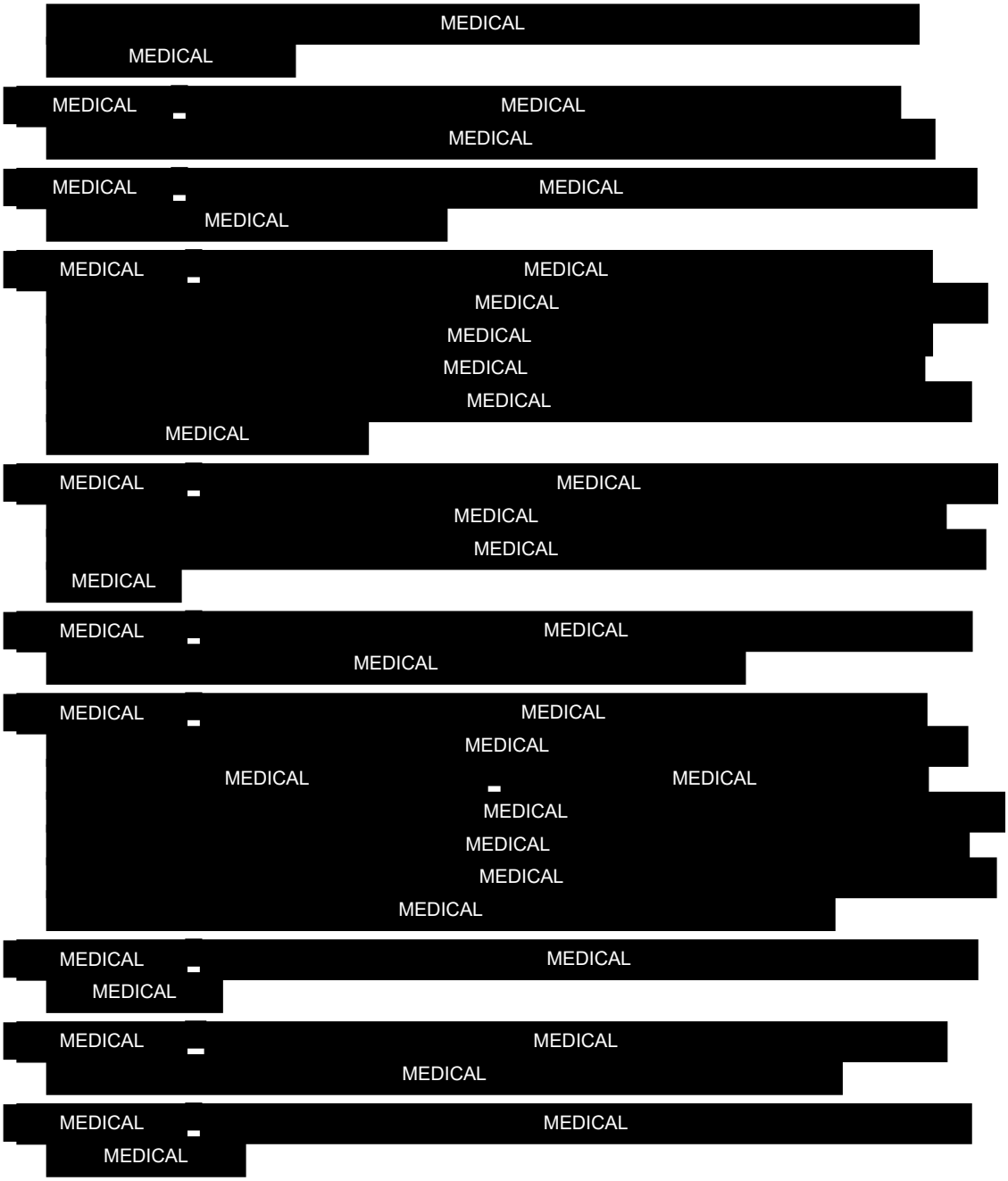
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the iRecord audio and video recording system. During the interview, Deputy Boudreaux confirmed he was the field training officer (FTO) responsible for Deputy Zachariah Ussery on February 25th, 2021. While conducting counts, Deputy Boudreaux said Deputy Ussery forgot to check the two hall RHU cells. Normally Deputy Boudreaux would have notated the mistake in a notebook, but he did not have the notebook with him that night because it was hot inside the jail. Deputy Boudreaux explained he keeps his notebook in his shirt pocket, but he was sweating more than normal, and feared the notebook would be ruined. Detective Varnado recalled speaking with Captain Payne on the morning of February 26th and him commenting on the air conditioning system in the jail being broken at the time.

Deputy Boudreaux explained before Deputy Ussery could complete the count in their area, they paused their count to help Deputy Brumfield with inmate Lamarx in the C-500 building. This in turn prevented Deputy Boudreaux from reminding Deputy Ussery to check the hall RHU cells. While they were with Deputy Brumfield, Deputies Boudreaux and Ussery heard the suicide signal over the radio, and responded to the incident. At the conclusion of their shift, Deputy Boudreaux completed a Daily Observation Report (DOR) for Deputy Ussery's performance that shift. Deputy Boudreaux explained due to not having taken notes, and the stress of Steven's suicide, the DOR did not reflect the events of the shift in full detail.

Deputy Boudreaux also said earlier in his shift, he and Ussery spoke with Steven. Steven requested to be let out to take a shower and to make a phone call. Deputies Boudreaux and Ussery told Steven they would let him out once they completed certain tasks. Deputy Boudreaux did not observe anything abnormal about Steven's behavior during their interaction.

At the conclusion of Deputy Boudreaux's interview, Detective Varnado burned a copy of the interview to a compact disk. The disk was later submitted into evidence labeled BV17. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 12:25 hours Detective Varnado interviewed Sergeant Dussouy at the Slidell Law Enforcement Complex. The interview was recorded using the iRecord audio and video recording system. During his interview, Sergeant Dussouy stated the beginning of his shift on February 25th, 2021 was eventful. There was a fight between inmates in C-600 around 22:20 hours. Then there was an incident involving a belligerent inmate resisting Deputy Brumfield in C-500 around 23:20 hours. For both of these incidents, Sergeant Dussouy, as the deputy manning the control pod, was responsible for opening the necessary doors for the responding deputies. Sergeant Dussouy also monitored Deputy Brumfield via the surveillance camera for her safety, and to quickly provide information over the radio should the need arise.

Sergeant Dussouy said despite the rigors of his shift, he continued to make visual observations using the surveillance camera footage. Sergeant Dussouy said he recalled looking at the video from the camera in Steven's cell shortly before discovering Steven hanging. However, Sergeant Dussouy said it appeared Steven was standing next to the gate, something Steven often did. Viewing only the small square of Steven's cell camera on the monitor from the pod desk, Sergeant Dussouy did not notice the sheet Steven hanged himself with, nor did he notice the small gap between Steven's feet and the floor.

Sergeant Dussouy did not notice Steven hanging until he walked to the microwave, which is directly in front of the monitor displaying Steven's cell.

Sergeant Dussouy went on, saying he called for assistance over the radio. When Lieutenant Fayard called for the cell door key, he exited the pod, and slid the keys to the nearest deputy; hoping they would reach the deputy quicker. However, when Sergeant Dussouy slid the keys, he lost his balance and fell. Sergeant Dussouy did not see what the keys hit, only that they separated from the new keyring.

At the conclusion of Sergeant Dussouy's interview, Detective Varnado burned a copy of the interview to a compact disk. The disk was later submitted into evidence labeled BV18. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

At 14:30 hours Detective Varndo interviewed Deputy Zachariah Ussery at the Covington Law Enforcement Complex. The interview was recorded using the iRecord audio and video recording system. During his interview, Deputy Ussery described beginning his head count in A-Building, and being interrupted to assist Deputy Brumfield with the incident involving inmate Lamarx Joiner. While assisting Deputy Brumfield finish her counts, Sergeant Dussouy, called for assistance in the left Hall RHU for an inmate, Steven Rudolph, attempting suicide. While other deputies worked on getting into Steven's cell, and later while they were rendering aid, Deputy Ussery said he ran to retrieve the "medic bag." After retrieving the bag and providing it to one of the nurses, Deputy Ussery took no further action in responding Steven's suicide. The interview was later burned to a compact disk and submitted into evidence labeled BV19. For further information concerning this interview, refer to the evidence.

[April 5th, 2021: RHU Timeline & Administrative Responsibilities]

On April 5th, 2021 Detective Varnado contacted Captain Payne requesting any information describing Steven's placement in RHU. Captain Payne referred Detective Varnado to Corporal Russell Spinks, an investigator for the jail. Corporal Spinks stated Steven was placed into RHU cell A51 on January 3rd, 2021 for "administrative segregation purposes." This decision came after Steven attempted to fight other inmates in the A900B dormitory who stopped him from wiping the walls, and bars with water he obtained from the toilets. Furthermore, Steven caused several instances of unrest during his assignment to the dormitory. Corporal Spinks stated he conducted Steven's initial administrative segregation hearing on January 4th, 2021 during which Steven agreed to remain in the RHU for thirty days.

While in RHU A51, Steven caused disturbances with the inmates in the cells next to, and across from him. On January 21st, 2021 Steven was moved to the left hall RHU for throwing "urine water," and other items. Steven also received a disciplinary write-up after breaking the phone in the shower area on January 13th, 2021. Corporal Spinks conducted Steven's administrative segregation hearing on February 9th, 2021. Corporal Spinks noted, at that the time of the hearing, Steven's behavior was erratic, and he was still awaiting his DOC hearing for breaking the phone in the shower. Steven complained of shoulder pain, and asked to see the medical staff. However, expressed he did not wish to be removed from the left hall RHU cell. Corporal Spinks said he told Steven that

because of his outbursts, and because jail security requested he be isolated from the other inmates as a security risk, he would remain on administrative segregation. On February 25th, 2021 Steven appeared in his hearing with DOC wherein he lost "good time," delaying the date of his release from incarceration.

Detective Varnado also asked Captain Payne, if the medical staff provided the jail security deputies with any documentation detailing the requests Steven made to them to be released from the RHU; as described in the medical records. Captain Payne called Detective Varnado a short time later, saying he spoke with the medical staff. The medical staff stated, if they passed the requests along to deputies, it would only have been verbally communicated, and not documented other than in the medical records. Regardless, the deputies would not have been able to oblige the requests due to Steven's placement on administrative segregation.

Conclusion

After reviewing the surveillance camera footage from Steven's cell, Detective Varnado concluded that Steven tied one end of a bedsheet around his neck, and the other to the bars in his cell. Steven then lowered himself down, asphyxiating himself for approximately twenty nine minutes. Despite efforts by St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Deputies, paramedics, and his physicians, Steven succumbed to his injuries. Using the surveillance camera footage, interviews from the deputies that responded to Steven's cell, and exhibits found on scene, Detective Varnado further concluded Steven hindered deputies' entry into his cell. Steven tied two strips of his bedsheet, and a laundry sack around the bars and the bar-gate. Steven then shoved pieces of his issued soap bar into the gate's keyhole.

Steven unwittingly exploited the diversion created by the incident in C-500 between Deputy Brumfield and inmate Lamarx Joiner. This distraction allowed Steven time he would not have had, if Deputies Boudreaux and Ussery were allowed to complete their count. Furthermore, Steven routinely refused his MEDICAL medication, and required a transfer to a facility better equipped to provide for his mental health; according to a request sent from jail medical staff to the Department of Corrections.

Appendix A

INVESTIGATOR(S):

Detective Blake Varnado
Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
Major Crimes Unit
300 Brownswitch Road, Slidell, Louisiana 70458
Telephone number: (985) 726-7842

DECEDENT:

Steven Rudolph, Inmate
White Male, Date of Birth PRIVACY 1971
SSN: PRIVAC-3966
1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

ASSISTING OFFICERS:

Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office
Criminal Investigations Division
300 Brownswitch Road, Slidell, Louisiana 70458
(985) 726-8000

Major Crimes Unit:
Sergeant Adam Rudolph, supervisor
Corporal Grey Thurman, supervisor

Saint Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office
Crime Lab
300 Brownswitch Road, Slidell, Louisiana 70458
(985) 726-8000

Laboratory Technicians:

Deputy Suzanne Melara

St. Tammany Parish Coroner's Office
65278 Highway 434
Lacombe, Louisiana 70445
(985) 781-1150
Dr. Michael Defatta, forensic pathologist

WITNESSES/PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

Lieutenant Jennifer Fayard
Security Supervisor, St. Tammany Parish Jail
1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Sergeant Brandon Dussouy
Correctional Supervisor, St. Tammany Parish Jail
1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Sergeant Ryan Robin
Correctional Supervisor, St. Tammany Parish Jail
1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Corporal William Cosban
Correctional Supervisor, St. Tammany Parish Jail
1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Nathaniel Migues
Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Leah Nyugen

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Tyler Boudreaux

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Zachariah Ussery

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Tristen Hammel

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Phillip Morris

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Deputy Adriana Brumfield

Correctional Officer, St. Tammany Parish Jail

1200 Champagne Street Covington, Louisiana 70433

Appendix B

Exhibits Collected

BV1: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Brandon Dussouy
BV2: One (1) compact disk containing the 9-1-1 call recording
BV3: One (1) USB drive containing security camera footage
BV4: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Ryan Robin
BV5: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with William Cosban
BV6: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Leah Nyugen
BV7: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Tristen Hammel
BV8: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Jennifer Fayard
BV9: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Phillip Morris
BV10: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Adriana Brumfield
BV11: One (1) compact disk containing audio interview with Nathaniel Migues
BV12: Two (2) USB drives containing 24hr. camera footage inside cell, and hallway
BV13: One (1) compact disk containing camera footage of Brumfield's two incidents
BV14: One (1) compact disk containing Steven Rudolph's medical records from MEDIC
BV15: Steven Rudolph's medical records from the St. Tammany Parish Jail
BV16: One (1) compact disk containing Steven Rudolph's incarceration records
BV17: One (1) compact disk containing Tyler Boudreaux's interview
BV18: One (1) compact disk containing Brandon Dussouy's interview
BV19: One (1) compact disk containing Zachariah Ussery's interview

Appendix C

Attachments

1.) Search warrant for Steven Rudolph's medical records MEDIC
2.) Search warrant for Steven Rudolph's medical records St. Tammany Parish Jail
3.) Jail ATM Message Report
4.) Medical Transfer Requests to DOC
5.) RHU Roster
6.) Crime Scene Log
7.) Handwritten notes by Brandon Dussouy & William Cosban
8.) Daily Observation Report for Tristen Hammel Dated 2/25/21
9.) Daily Observation Report for Zachariah Ussery Dated 2/25/21
10.) Unusual Occurrence Report by Donald Plaisance
11.) Unusual Occurrence Report by Adriana Brumfield concerning C600
12.) Unusual Occurrence Report by Adriana Brumfield concerning C500
13.) St. Tammany Parish Jail Suicide Evaluation by Capt. Scotty Payne
14.) Standardized Death Report by Daniel Fleishman
15.) A Central Logbook from 2/25/21; 00:00hrs to 2/26/21; 23:59hrs.
16.) Individual Logbook Query

Redaction Date: 12/14/2022 10:49:08 AM

Redaction Log

Total Number of Redactions in Document: 30

Redaction Reasons by Page

Page	Reason	Description	Occurrences
8	PRIVACY	Art. I, Sec. 5 of the Louisiana Constitution offers protection against unreasonable invasions of privacy	1
11	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	4
14	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
16	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
18	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	6
22	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	2
23	PRIVACY	Art. I, Sec. 5 of the Louisiana Constitution offers protection against unreasonable invasions of privacy	2
23	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
24	PRIVACY	Art. I, Sec. 5 of the Louisiana Constitution offers protection against unreasonable invasions of privacy	2
24	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
25	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	2
26	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
27	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1

Redaction Date: 12/14/2022 10:49:08 AM

Redaction Log

Page	Reason	Description	Occurrences
30	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
31	PRIVACY	Art. I, Sec. 5 of the Louisiana Constitution offers protection against unreasonable invasions of privacy	2
34	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1
35	MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	1

Redaction Log

Redaction Reasons by Exemption

Reason	Description	Pages (Count)
MEDICAL	Protected health information as defined in La. R.S. 29:672 not subject to disclosure. La. Const Art. I, Sec 5, La. R.S. 44:4(37) and HIPAA	11(4) 14(1) 16(1) 18(6) 22(2) 24(1) 25(2) 26(1) 27(1) 30(1) 34(1) 35(1) 23(1)
PRIVACY	Art. I, Sec. 5 of the Louisiana Constitution offers protection against unreasonable invasions of privacy	8(1) 23(2) 24(2) 31(2)