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Orleans Parish Prison inmate died of natural causes, coroner rules

Ken Daley
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Orleans Parish Prison deaths

Orleans Parish Prison inmate Charles Allen, who was awaiting trial on drug and weapons charges, died in custody of natural causes at age 59, Orleans Parish Coroner Dr. Jeffrey Rouse ruled Monday (June 1, 2015).

(Chris Granger, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune)

The Orleans Parish Prison inmate who died Saturday night was identified as 59-year-old Charles Allen, and he died of natural causes, Coroner Dr. Jeffrey Rouse announced Monday (June 1).

Rouse said preliminary autopsy results indicated "a cardiac-related cause of death" and said no trauma was observed. Rouse said the death received a preliminary classification as natural, but that toxicological and histological tests are pending.

In keeping with Rouse's protocol for deaths in the custody of law enforcement, the coroner said investigators from both the FBI and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office observed the autopsy.

Sheriff's office spokesman Philip Stelly said Allen was transported to Interim LSU Hospital on Saturday, after guards found him unresponsive during a "medical check," apparently because of cardiac

arrest. Stelly said OPP medical staff managed to revive Allen before his transport by a New Orleans EMS crew, but that he was pronounced dead at the hospital Saturday at 7:42 p.m.

Court records show Allen was jailed last Thursday, following his arrest on drug and weapons charges. Allen was booked with possession with intent to distribute heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, and six counts of illegally carrying weapons in the presence of a controlled dangerous substance.

Allen, who was sentenced to five years in prison for heroin possession in 2000, had reported several medical issues upon his jail intake on Thursday, Stelly said. Allen "was immediately placed on the appropriate medical protocol for opiate detoxification," Stelly said in a news release.



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DWIGHT L. MCKENNA, M.D.

CORONER'S REPORT

(pursuant to R.S. 44:19 (E)(3))

I, Dwight McKenna, CORONER FOR THE PARISH OF ORLEANS, certify the following report of death:

REPORTED NAME OF DECEASED:	Allen, Charles
ADDRESS:	531 South Broad St. New Orleans , LA 70119
SEX:	Male
DATE AT BIRTH:	May 23, 1956
AGE AT DEATH:	59 years 0 months 6 days
RACE:	African American / Black
DATE AND TIME OF DEATH:	May 30, 2015 at 19:43
PLACE OF DEATH:	
DATE AND TIME OF AUTOPSY:	Jun 01, 2015 at 08:20
CAUSE(S) OF DEATH:	Hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease
MANNER OF DEATH:	Natural

DWIGHT MCKENNA
CORONER, ORLEANS PARISH

DATE: **November 20, 2024**

R.S. 44:19 (E)(3)

(3) A coroner's report is a document that includes the name of the decedent, address, sex, date of birth, age, and race of the decedent, date and time of death, place of death, date and time of autopsy, when applicable, and the cause and manner of death, including any scientifically contributing factors. The coroner's report is a public record, and the coroner or his designee shall release this report to the news media, any other person, the Department of Children and Family Services, when appropriate, the spouse, parent, sibling, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, aunt, or uncle of the decedent, or to the person with the right to control and authorize the interment of the decedent as provided in R.S. 8:655(A). However, nothing in this Paragraph shall authorize the release of the information set forth in this Paragraph prior to notification of the next of kin of the deceased unless no next of kin can be determined or, despite reasonable efforts by the coroner's office, no next of kin can be located. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not require the release of information in non-coroner cases, nor shall it prohibit the coroner from releasing information pursuant to R.S. 13:5713 or Children's Code Article 609 to the Department of Children and Family Services.