

State of Connecticut  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL



Report Concerning the In-Custody Death of Steven D. Bailey  
at the Bridgeport Correctional Center on May 26, 2024

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Inspector General

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## INTRODUCTION

On May 26, 2024, at approximately 5:45 a.m., Steven D. Bailey<sup>1</sup> was found unresponsive in his cell at the Bridgeport Correctional Center, 1106 North Avenue, Bridgeport. He was taken by ambulance to St. Vincent's Hospital and pronounced deceased at 6:21 a.m. Following an investigation by the Connecticut State Police Western District Major Crime Squad, a Superior Court Judge issued an arrest warrant for Cecil J. Mills<sup>2</sup> charging him with the murder of Steven D. Bailey.

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has the statutory responsibility to investigate in-custody deaths to determine, inter alia, if the death was due to criminal action.<sup>3</sup> In this case, that determination has already been made – at least to the standard of probable cause. Since the matter is now in court, the OIG will defer to the court process to adjudicate Cecil J. Mills' case.

## ARREST WARRANT

The affidavit submitted in support of the arrest warrant application for Cecil J. Mills may be summarized as follows:

On May 26, 2024, at approximately 7:09 a.m., Lieutenant Selma Khan of the Department of Correction (DOC) notified Connecticut State Police Troop G of an inmate death at the Bridgeport Correctional Center (BCC). The deceased was identified as Steven Bailey (DOB 10/09/80).

On May 26, 2024, at approximately 5:43 a.m., Correction Officer (CO) Maigan McCray observed an inmate, Cecil Mills (DOB 09/12/88) who refused to go back to his assigned cell #2. Correction Officer Derek Barnes spoke to Mills who said, "I killed my celly." CO Barnes entered cell #2 and found Steven Bailey unresponsive. DOC staff commenced CPR and called for an ambulance. AMR arrived and transported Bailey to St. Vincent's Hospital. He was pronounced dead at 6:21 a.m.

The photographs taken of Bailey at the hospital morgue showed injuries indicative of strangulation.

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<sup>1</sup> On May 26, 2024, Steven D. Bailey was a Caucasian male, age 43.

<sup>2</sup> On May 26, 2024, Cecil Jay Mills was an African-American male, age 35.

<sup>3</sup> General Statutes 51-277a(a)(2)(B) in pertinent part provides, "[W]henver a person dies in the custody of the Commissioner of Correction, the Inspector General shall investigate and determine whether the deceased person may have died as a result of criminal action, and, if so, refer such case to the Chief State's Attorney or state's attorney for potential prosecution."

Several inmates stated that on May 25, 2024, around 7:30 p.m., they heard Bailey yelling for help. At 8:00 p.m., when inmates were allowed out of their cells, Mills went directly to the shower. Inmates observed blood on him.

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner performed an autopsy on Bailey and listed the cause of his death as compression of the neck and the manner of death as homicide.

A review of video surveillance at BCC showed that from the last time Bailey was seen alive entering cell #2, no person entered the cell besides Mills.


On May 31, 2024, a Superior Court Judge found probable cause to believe that Cecil Mills committed an offense and issued a warrant for his arrest on the charge of murder.

A copy of the arrest warrant is reprinted in the Appendix. Mills' criminal case is pending in the Bridgeport Judicial District under Docket No. FBT-CR24-0357402-T.

### CONCLUSION

The Connecticut State Police investigation has resulted in the arrest of Cecil Mills for the murder of Steven Bailey. The matter is now pending in the Superior Court for the Judicial District of Bridgeport under Docket No. FBT-CR24-0357402-T. Given the pendency of this case, there is no need for a referral to a state's attorney. The Office of Inspector General will take no further action in this matter.

Date: April 1, 2025

  
ROBERT J. DEVLIN, JR.  
INSPECTOR GENERAL