



MEDIA RELEASE

On April 21, 2016, at approximately 6:45am the Anchorage Correctional Complex reported to Alaska State Troopers that Inmate Brian Pinkerton, 36 years old, was found unresponsive in his cell by on-duty Correction Staff. Department of Corrections (DOC) Officers and medical staff were the first to respond to the scene and were later assisted by emergency responders from the Anchorage Fire Department. Pinkerton was pronounced deceased at 6:57am by medical personnel.

A death investigation was conducted by the Alaska Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the State Medical Examiner's Office (SME). An internal DOC investigation was also conducted concurrently to examine the circumstances leading up to Pinkerton's death.

Investigation revealed that at the time of death, Pinkerton suffered from the acute combined effects of methamphetamine and heroin. A small pouch containing heroin was discovered in Pinkerton's rectal cavity. The investigation also revealed that Pinkerton's arms showed signs of recent intravenous drug use.

Pinkerton suffered from a long-term medical condition and he had recently undergone a medical examination prior to his death. Pinkerton had been in custody at Anchorage Correctional Complex since January 8, 2016 on multiple probation violations and on charges of Robbery 1, Forgery 2, Assault 2, Theft 2, and Theft 3.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Dean Williams says, Pinkerton's death is exactly why an investigation is ongoing into the source of these drugs finding their way into our correctional institutions statewide. "The trafficking of drugs is a major concern of all DOC employees, especially correctional officers tasked with maintaining safety. Through the Professional Conduct Unit (PCU) and partner law enforcement agencies, our goal is to eliminate the problem and make the institutions safer for inmates and staff."