



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise Moloney
Community/Media Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: UPDATE - Sheriff Reports Inmate Death - 2021-29340

Date: March 22, 2024

UPDATE

Investigation revealed the victim (deceased person) received an unknown narcotic, later identified to be Xanax and Fentanyl, from her cell-mate, Lauren Moon.

The victim ingested the substance and soon fell unconscious in her cell.

On 04-05-22, detectives obtained a warrant for the arrest of Moon.

On 04-06-22, Moon was located and arrested, on the Hernando County warrant, in Lake County, Florida.

On 04-27-22, Lauren Moon was formally indicted on the following charges:

- Introduction of Contraband in a County Detention Facility
- 1st Degree Murder (Death by the Unlawful Distribution of Fentanyl)
- Possession of Controlled Substance.

On 05-11-22, Moon was delivered to the Hernando County Detention Center and served with the arrest warrant (charges listed above).

On 03-14-24, a trial was set in reference this case. During the hearing, Lauren Moon, open pled to the charges.

Contact was made with the State Attorney's Office and the family of the victim; both agreed to the terms of the open plea.

Lauren Moon DOB/02-07-1994 was sentenced as follows:

- 15 years in prison – Manslaughter

- 2 years in prison – Introduction of Contraband into a County Detention Center.

The sentences will run consecutive to each other.

“The team did a fantastic job, and the cooperation from the detention center staff helped bring this investigation to a successful closure! We will continue to hold those who provide narcotics to other individuals accountable for their actions.” - Sheriff Al Nienhuis

ORIGINAL INFORMATION – 10-01-2021

On 09-28-2021 just before 11 a.m., deputies at the Hernando County Detention Center were preparing inmates for lunch and court proceedings. During this time, a female inmate alerted deputies that one of her three cellmates was unresponsive. Several detention deputies rushed into the cell and began rendering aid to the unresponsive female inmate. At the same time, a request was made for Hernando County Fire and Emergency Services (HCFES).

Deputies and detention center medical staff continued lifesaving measures until HCFES arrived on scene and took over patient care. The inmate/patient was then transported to a local hospital for more advanced care.

Due to the condition of the inmate, she was released from custody in the early morning hours of 09-29-2021. In the evening hours of 09-29-2021, the woman died at the hospital.

The circumstances involving the woman’s need for medical attention and her death are being investigated by HCSO and the Medical Examiner’s Office.

There is no additional information available at this time.