

ISP investigation on-going after inmate suffers, dies of possible cardiac problem

Written by Marty Randall

Wednesday, 18 June 2014 00:00 -

An inmate of the Scott County Security Center was transported to Scott Memorial Hospital early Saturday morning, June 14, after suffering what the Sheriff's Department has described as cardiac distress.

Johnnie Locklear, 48, Austin, died at the local hospital, and the incident is now undergoing an in-depth investigation by the Indiana State Police, Sellersburg post.

Scott County Coroner Jerry Buchanan was notified of Locklear's transfer and subsequent treatment on arrival at the hospital's emergency room. Buchanan released the inmate's body for transport to the Kentucky Medical Examiners' Office in Louisville at 8:45 a.m.

Reportedly, Locklear's condition was noticed by jail personnel shortly before his transfer to the hospital at 5:30 a.m. ER staff attempted to assist and then revive Locklear for approximately one-and-one-half hours, according to a source. Locklear's official time of death is 8 a.m., it was learned.

Locklear had originally been arrested on Wednesday, June 11. Deputies Joe Guarneri and Jeremy Arnold were dispatched just before 8:30 p.m. after a resident made a 9-1-1 call to report an alleged naked man in a backyard at 333 East Booe Road. Locklear lived at 255 E. Booe Rd.

The man, later identified as Locklear, had yelled at the resident and then ran into some woods.

Deputy Arnold made the initial contact with Locklear who, by that time, was wearing shorts. The officer found Locklear near the woods in the back yard. The man was on his knees. Deputy Guarneri said in the probable cause affidavit that Locklear "...seemed very confused..." and told the officers that he had "...smoked a joint with a four-leaf clover and it messed him up..."

Locklear apparently initially refused to provide his name and told the deputies he was going to pray. He also called the officers "Judas" several times, it was reported.

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Locklear eventually gave the officers his name but he could not identify where he was nor why he went in the woods, the document related.

The two officers walked Locklear to the front yard for evaluation by Scott County EMS personnel, who had also been called to the scene. However, the man "...began talking strangely again..." and asked the officers to let him go back to the woods. He then ran from the deputies but was quickly recaptured in the back yard.

Deputy Guarneri said friends and family members came to the neighbor's home and confirmed the man's identity. The officers were also told Locklear "...had been acting strange the last three days and (had) had no sleep."

Deputy Guaneri said he transported Locklear to the Security Center in Scottsburg for emergency detention and for fleeing, a Class A misdemeanor.

At the jail, Locklear was taken to a padded cell for protection, but, while in the cell with two jailers, the affidavit advised Locklear did not comply with their commands. While Deputy Guaneri was also in the cell, he said Locklear suddenly turned toward one of the jailers "...as if he was going to run (at the jailer..." That jailer used his Taser in an attempt to control Locklear and struck the man in the front of his body. Still, Locklear continued to resist by pulling away and trying to get up, Guarneri reported. He was then maced.

The probable cause affidavit filed with the Prosecutor's Office supported two misdemeanor charges, the first of fleeing and a second of resisting law enforcement in the cell.

Locklear's initial hearing in Scott Superior Court was scheduled for Friday, June 13, but the hearing apparently was not held, according to court records.

A reporter's on-air WDRB-TV interview Sunday, June 15, with Sgt. Jerry Goodin, public information officer for the ISP Sellersburg post, revealed that a preliminary autopsy conducted

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that day was inconclusive as to a cause of death.

Coroner Buchanan stated that a thorough autopsy, including toxicological results, can take up to eight weeks to complete.