



State of Utah

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# Utah Department of Corrections Executive Office

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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A Utah State Prison inmate died Sunday of apparent cardiac arrest due to renal failure.

Ramon C. Estrada, 62, died at approximately 10:30 p.m. as prison medical staff and outside responders prepared to transport him to University Medical Center for treatment. Estrada's body was turned over to the Utah State Medical Examiner's office for an autopsy, which will determine the exact cause of death.

Unified Police is conducting an investigation of Estrada's death, which is standard procedure.

An internal investigation by the Utah Department of Correction's Law Enforcement Bureau also is ongoing, but a preliminary review indicates that the lack of dialysis treatment could be a contributing factor in Estrada's death.

Estrada was scheduled to receive kidney dialysis in the prison's on-site treatment center in the Olympus facility on Friday.

However, a technician with the contract provider for dialysis treatment at the prison failed to show up as anticipated on Friday and also on Saturday.

Following Estrada's death Sunday evening, six other inmates who need ongoing dialysis treatment but had not received it were transported to University Medical Center for evaluation.

Two were found to be in good condition and were returned to the prison. Four inmates were admitted for treatment. Three of those inmates were returned to the prison on Monday evening. One remains in the hospital.

The delayed response in ensuring that the inmates' received needed medical care is unacceptable.

The Department's internal investigation will include a review of all aspects of the situation, including the response by its medical leadership and staff, actions of its contract provider and an analysis of what measures need to be taken to prevent this from happening again.

The Department's Clinical Services Bureau director has been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of that investigation.

In the meantime, the Department has taken immediate action to improve communication with and oversight of the dialysis contract provider. Those steps include getting a schedule calendar with contact telephone numbers for dialysis technicians; requiring nursing staff assigned to the Olympus facility to make contact with and receive post-treatment reports from the on-duty technician on dialysis days; improving chart notes about each inmate's status and condition; and requiring timely notification to the charge nurse when the dialysis schedule changes or a technician fails to show up.

Estrada had been incarcerated since Aug. 10, 2005, on a rape conviction. He had a parole date of April 21, 2015. The federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service had an active detainer for Estrada, a Mexican National.

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