

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: August 21, 2018
Contact: Office of Communications
Phone: (601) 359-5608, 359-5289, 359-5689
E-mail: MDOCOfficeofCommunications@mdoc.state.ms.us

Commissioner Hall's Statement on Deaths in MDOC's Custody

The following is a statement from Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall regarding the deaths of individuals in MDOC's custody:

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is aware of the recent interest in the deaths of individuals in its custody.

The Department believes that most of the 10 deaths for the month of August are from natural causes, based on information readily available at this time. However, the formal manner and cause of death are pending autopsies. Autopsies are performed by the state Medical Examiner's Office and are subject to the time constraints of that office.

The MDOC takes very seriously all deaths in its custody and investigates all of them to determine whether foul play is involved.

The Department recognizes and appreciates that the safety, security, and overall well-being of all individuals entrusted to its care are paramount to the agency's mission.