



**Commission of  
Correction**

**Final Report of the  
New York State Commission of Correction:**

**In the Matter of the Death of**

**Edward Epps,  
an incarcerated individual of the  
Chemung County Jail**

**December 20, 2023**

**To: Sheriff William A. Schrom  
Chemung County Sheriff's Office  
203 William Street  
P.O. Box 588  
Elmira, New York 14902-0588**

**Allen Riley**  
*Chairman*

**Yolanda Canty**  
*Commissioner*



6. Epps was serving a nine month sentence in the Chemung CJ with an expectant release date of 3/9/2023. Epps was housed in Post 5, Block B, cell #5. Post 5 is a linear style cell block with 4 blocks (A, B, C, D) of 6 individual cells. There were three other incarcerated individuals housed in B block with Epps. Epps had prior incidents in the jail for fighting and refusing direct orders from staff.
7. Officer J.W. was assigned as the housing area officer for Post 5 from 1/16/2023 at 10:00 p.m. through 1/17/2023 at 6:00 a.m. At 9:55 p.m., all incarcerated individuals were locked in their cells and accounted for. Officer J.W. recounted seeing Epps standing in his cell watching the NFL playoff game on the cell block TV. After the game was over, Officer J.W. observed Epps laying in his bed sleeping.
8. Officer J.W. conducted general supervision rounds every 30 minutes. The rounds were recorded in the housing area logbook and were verified on the facility's watch tour system. A review of the recorded housing area video of Post 5 showed Officer J.W. entering each block at the documented times per the logbook entries however, the recorded video only covers the Post 5 hallway and not the individual cell blocks. Officer J.W. did not note anything unusual during his rounds and Epps appeared to be sleeping on his bunk.
9. At 5:17 a.m., Officer J.W. was conducting morning medication pass and called to Epps to get his medications. Epps did not respond to Officer J.W. Epps was laying on his side with his head toward to cell door facing the wall. Officer J.W. called to Epps several more times but received no response.
10. At 5:18 a.m., Officer J.W. radioed for Sgt. S.N. to respond to the scene. Officer J.W. kept a constant watch on Epps until staff arrived. Sgt. S.N. along with Officer J.H. arrived on Post 5 and found Epps unresponsive. Sgt. S.N. called for a medical emergency response and to activate EMS.
11. At 5:19 a.m., Officers G.C. and N.M. arrived on the scene and entered Epps's cell. Epps was found unresponsive with no pulse or respirations. Epps was removed from his bunk and placed on the floor. Epps was found to be cold and stiff with rigor mortis setting in. Despite these findings, CPR was started by the officers and an AED was applied. No shock was advised.
12. At 5:28 a.m., Elmira Fire Department arrived on the scene.
13. At 5:33 a.m., Erway Ambulance EMS arrived on the scene. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
14. After Epps was transported to the medical examiner's office at Lourdes Hospital, a baggie with suspected drugs was found inside of Epps's sock. A lab analysis of the found substance confirmed it to be fentanyl.

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

That this case be closed as an accidental overdose.

WITNESS, HONORABLE ALLEN RILEY, Chairman, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this 20<sup>h</sup> day of December, 2023.



Allen Riley  
Chairman  
Commission of Correction

AR:CO:vc  
2023-M-0003  
December 20, 2023