



**Commission of
Correction**

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

In the Matter of the Death of

**Ronald McCarthy (08B0563),
an incarcerated individual of the
Elmira Correctional Facility**

June 25, 2024

**To: Honorable Daniel F. Martuscello, III
Commissioner
NYS Department of Corrections
And Community Supervision
The Harriman State Campus
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226**

Allen Riley
Chairman

Yolanda Canty
Commissioner

Elizabeth Gaynes
Commissioner

GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, the Medical Review Board has reported to the NYS Commission of Correction pursuant to Correction Law, section 47(1)(d), regarding the death of Ronald McCarthy, who died on November 21, 2021, while an incarcerated individual in the custody of the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision at the Elmira Correctional Facility, the Commission has determined that the following final report be issued.

FINDINGS:

1. Ronald McCarthy was a 59-year-old white male who died on 11/21/21 from a suicide hanging while in the custody of New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (NYS DOCCS) at the Elmira Correctional Facility (CF).
2. McCarthy had no criminal history aside from his instant offense. In 2007, McCarthy set fire to his house, fled the scene and later collided with a police vehicle after refusing to stop. In 2008, he was convicted of Attempted Aggravated Murder 2nd Degree and Arson 3rd Degree and sentenced to serve 22 years to life in NYS DOCCS. This was his first incarceration.
3. [REDACTED]
4. [REDACTED]
5. McCarthy was first received by DOCCS on 2/22/08 at the Elmira Reception Center. [REDACTED]
6. [REDACTED]
7. [REDACTED]

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED]

10. [REDACTED]

11. [REDACTED]

12. [REDACTED]

13. [REDACTED]

14. [REDACTED]

15. [REDACTED]

16. [REDACTED]

17. [REDACTED]


18. [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
19. [REDACTED]
20. On 11/21/21 at 5:34 a.m., Correction Officer (CO) J.S. observed McCarthy learning against the wall of his cell with a boot lace tied around his neck and secured to the coat hook on the wall of the cell. McCarthy was unresponsive and a medical emergency was called. Sergeant (SGT) J.W. and CO J.M. responded to the scene and entered the cell where CO J.M used a cut down tool to cut and removed the shoelace from McCarthy's neck. McCarthy was moved to the floor and EMS was contacted. At 5:35 A.M Registered Nurse (RN) [REDACTED] and SGT. T.T. entered the cell [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] At 5:37 a.m., CO J.M administered one dose of nasal Narcan [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] EMS arrived at 5:46 a.m. and assumed full care of McCarthy at 5:53 a.m. [REDACTED].
21. A suicide note was found in McCarthy's cell following his death. The note stated: "I have a living will on file with medical records. DNR. My emergency contact number is my son or my mother [REDACTED]. Don't call my wife [REDACTED] she won't answer any calls from Elmira Corr. Facility. Pastor [REDACTED] tried to call her for 1-2 weeks no answers. Good Day MAC. Make sure when you call my son [REDACTED] when he's not driving, he drives big truck drive. Thanks."
22. [REDACTED]

ACTIONS REQUIRED:

This case be closed as a suicide.

WITNESS, HONORABLE YOLANDA CANTY, Commissioner, NYS Commission of Correction, Alfred E. Smith State Office Building, 80 South Swan Street, 12th Floor, in the City of Albany, New York 12210 on this 25th day of June 2024.



Yolanda Canty
Commissioner
Commission of Correction

YC:AH:vc
2021-M-0159
June 25, 2024

cc: Dr. Carol Moores, Chief Medical Officer
James Donahue, Associate Commissioner of Mental Health
Superintendent Kevin McCarthy, Elmira CF
Dr. Li-Wen Lee, Associate Commissioner
Division of Forensic Services, NYS Office of Mental Health
Danielle Dill, Executive Director, CNYPC
William Vertoske, Deputy Director of CBO, CNYPC
Meaghan Bernstein, Advocacy Letter Coordinator, CNYPC