



Shelby County Corrections Center

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Corrections Center Inmate Dies after Argument with Cellmate

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Investigators with the Shelby County Corrections Center and Shelby County Sheriff's Office say a corrections center inmate died yesterday after an argument with his cellmate.

"We're interviewing inmates and staff to ensure there's a thorough review of what occurred," said Bill Gupton, Director of the Shelby County Division of Corrections.

The inmate's death was originally thought to be a suicide but is now being investigated as a homicide based on his injuries.

Corrections officers found Leonard Nelson, 22, dead in his cell just after 11:30 yesterday morning. He was serving time for Aggravated Burglary and Sexual Exploitation of a Minor.

Charges are pending against Nelson's cellmate, Daniel Smith, 36, serving time for Aggravated Burglary and Theft of Property.

A motive is still under investigation.



Leonard Nelson



Daniel Smith

(End of Release)