



State of Connecticut
Department of Correction

Contact: Office of Public Information
Acting Director of External Affairs: Karen Martucci
Public Information Officers: Andrius Banevicius
Telephone: (860) 692-7780
Fax: (860) 692-7783
doc.pio@ct.gov

For Immediate Release
Former Death Row Inmate's Death
Under Investigation

February 2, 2015

The Connecticut Department of Correction is investigating the untimely death of an inmate at the Garner Correctional Center in Newtown, CT.

At approximately 10:35 a.m. Monday, February 2, 2015, inmate Courchesne, Robert collapsed while walking inside the facility. Correctional and medical staff immediately initiated emergency and life saving measures. The inmate was transported via ambulance to Danbury Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 11:23 a.m.

Courchesne, 57, was convicted in 2004 and originally sentenced to death for the murder of an 8 and ½ month pregnant woman in 1998. Courchesne stabbed the pregnant woman in a Waterbury bank parking lot over a \$400 drug debt. The baby was delivered prematurely and died 42 days later.

In 2010, the state Supreme Court ordered a new trial for Courchesne, saying the death penalty was improperly applied. Courchesne was spared the death penalty when then State's Attorney John Connelly declined to continue his pursuit of the death penalty against him.

Although Courchesne was taken off death row, he was serving 60 years for Murder.

Even though no foul play is suspected, the Department of Correction and the Connecticut State Police are conducting an investigating of the incident.