

South Carolina Department of Corrections

May 10, 2025 For immediate release Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206 Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – Leo Jermaine Cheeks, an inmate at Lee Correctional Institution, died at the institution last night.

Cheeks, 40, was found unresponsive in his cell. An autopsy will be performed.

His death is being investigated as suspicious by the SCDC Inspector General's office with assistance from the S.C. Law Enforcement Division Crime Scene unit and the Lee County Coroner.