

Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Kirk D. Thompson *Director*

Derek Schmidt

Attorney General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 21, 2021

Contact: Melissa Underwood (785) 296-8283

melissa.underwood@kbi.ks.gov

Death at Topeka Correctional Facility

TOPEKA, Kan. – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) is investigating after a resident of the Topeka Correctional Facility died Monday while in custody at the facility.

On Monday, April 19, at approximately 10:30 a.m., Jessica Chapman, 35, went to an appointment scheduled with a physician at the correctional facility's on-site medical clinic. The appointment was a follow-up visit, as she received medical care over the weekend for chest pains.

During the appointment, Chapman collapsed. Life-saving measures were attempted, including administering CPR and using an AED. EMS responded and continued attempts to resuscitate her. Despite those efforts, Chapman was pronounced dead at approximately 11:30 a.m.

At approximately 12:10 p.m. on Monday, the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) requested the KBI investigate, as is required by state statute. The KBI investigates all deaths of individuals in the custody of a Kansas jail or prison, unless the inmate is being regularly attended by a physician.

An autopsy was conducted today, April 21. Preliminary autopsy findings indicated a natural cause of death related to heart failure. The final autopsy report is pending.

The investigation is ongoing.

###